



SPECIAL

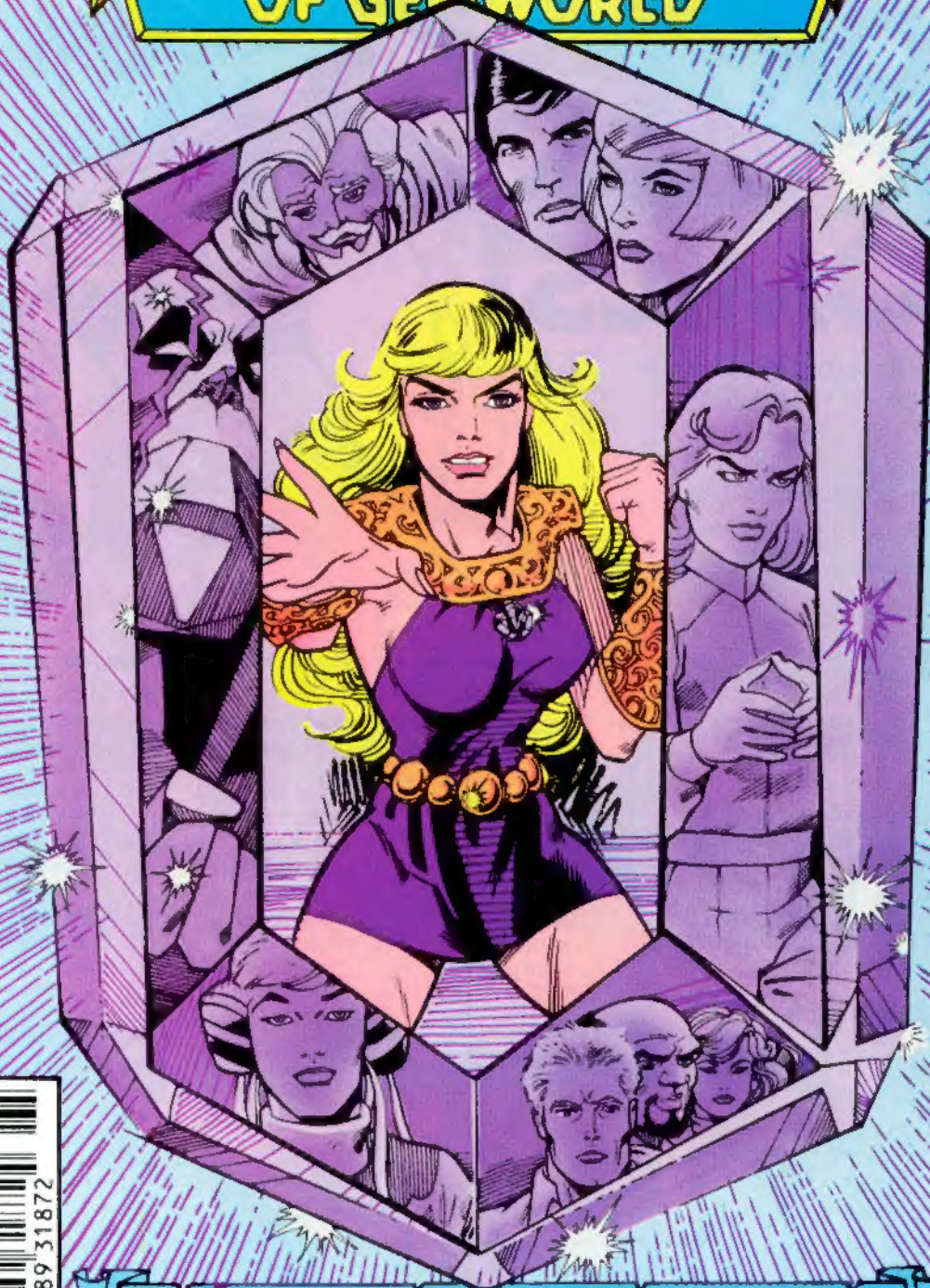
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1986



AMETHYST

PRINCESS
OF GEMWORLD



The FINAL CHAPTER!



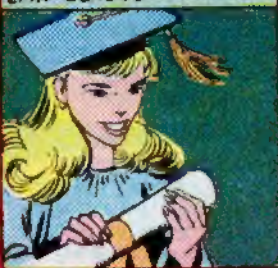
"IT'S JUST NOT FAIR! LIFE STINKS, YOU KNOW THAT? IT SMELLS TO HIGH HEAVEN!"

"AND YOU'RE THE BIGGEST STINKER OF THEM ALL, CITRINA! YOU'RE A SELFISH OLD HAG, AND WORSE, YOU'RE A THIEF! YOU STOLE EVERYTHING FROM ME, WITCH-MOTHER! YOU STOLE MY WHOLE LIFE!"

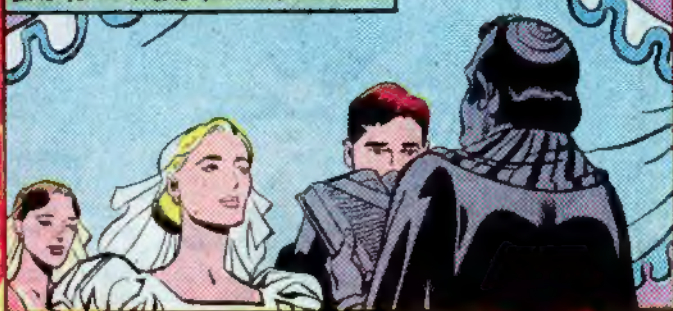
YOU KNOW I'VE NEVER HAD A REAL BOYFRIEND, CITRINA? AND I'M NEVER GONNA HAVE A SWEET SIXTEEN PARTY, OR STAY UP ALL NIGHT ON NEW YEAR'S EVE!



I'M NEVER GONNA GO TO HIGH SCHOOL NOW, NOT TO MENTION COLLEGE OR LAW SCHOOL!



I'M NEVER GONNA KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE REAL WOMAN, A BRIDE--



--A MOTHER!



AND I'M NEVER GONNA SEE BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN IN CONCERT, EITHER!



YOU STOLE ALL THAT FROM ME, CITRINA!



DON'T YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH?



DON'T YOU HAVE A HEART?



WHAT'S THE MATTER, CITRINA? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE? NO WISDOM FROM THE WITCHMOTHER THIS TIME HUH? NO MORE LIES TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?

I'M SORRY, DAUGHTER. WHAT ELSE CAN I SAY? I DID WHAT I DID, BECAUSE I HAD TO. I LIED BECAUSE I HAD TO, BECAUSE I LOVED YOU.

DON'T EVEN SAY THAT WORD! LOVE? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LOVE? I HATE YOU, CITRINA! I'VE NEVER HATED ANYBODY SO MUCH IN MY WHOLE LIFE!

HATE ME IF YOU MUST, AMETHYST, BUT DO NOT DENY ME MY RIGHT TO LOVE YOU IN MY OWN WAY, NO MATTER HOW FLAWED THAT WAY IS. AND YOU CANNOT DENY YOUR DESTINY, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY.

YOU GAVE ME THAT DESTINY! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SENT THE AMETHYST STONE TO ME ON MY BIRTHDAY! I NEVER WANTED IT! I NEVER ASKED FOR A DUMB PIECE OF JEWELRY! I WANTED A STEREO!

YES, I SENT YOU THE PENDANT, BUT I DID NOT DECREE WHO YOU ARE, OR YOUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE. THAT WAS DECIDED BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, EVEN BEFORE YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER WERE BORN.

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I DON'T WANT TO BE A LORD OF ORDER! I WANT TO BE ANY WINSTON! I WANT MY MOTHER! I WANT MARION WINSTON TO BE MY MOTHER, AND SHE DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER ME!

MARION WINSTON CANNOT REMEMBER YOU, AMETHYST. THOSE YEARS ON EARTH NEVER HAPPENED IN HER REALITY.

THAT'S NOT TRUE! THEY HAPPENED! I WAS THERE! AND DADDY REMEMBERS ME! AND WHAT ABOUT TAFFY AND EMMY AND TOM AND RITA AND ALL MY TEACHERS AND EVERYBODY ELSE??!

MARION WINSTON WAS CLOSEST TO YOU, SO HER MEMORIES WERE THE FIRST AFFECTED. YOUR FATHER AND THE OTHERS OF EARTH WILL SOON FORGET AS WELL.

"OH YEAH? WELL, WHAT ABOUT EMMY? SHE'S FROM THE GEMWORLD! SHE'LL REMEMBER ME! SHE'LL ALWAYS KNOW THE TRUTH!"

AND YET HOW EASILY SHE HAS ADAPTED TO HER NEW EXISTENCE. NO, AMETHYST, EMERALD WILL SOON REMEMBER HER LIFE ON THE GEMWORLD AS ONLY A CHILDISH FANTASY, A DREAM-LIFE SHE ONCE SPUN OUT OF LONELINESS AS AN ONLY CHILD.

NO! NO!

YOU WANTED THE TRUTH, AMETHYST, BUT YOU CANNOT ACCEPT IT. NOW YOU SEE WHY I LIED.

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT ABOUT ME? WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME? ISN'T ANYONE GOING TO REMEMBER ME? DIDN'T MY LIFE HAVE MEANT ANYTHING TO ANYBODY?

OH, YES, MY DAUGHTER! MORE THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY KNOW!

"KISMET"

KEITH GIFFEN - PLOT
MINDY NEWELL - DIALOGUE
ERNE COLON - PENCILER
PABLO MARCOS - INKER
AGUSTIN MAS - LETTERER
TATIANA WOOD - COLORIST
KAREN BERGER - EDITOR



YOU MEAN THE VISIONS I'VE BEEN HAVING ARE MY FUTURE, DON'T YOU? I THOUGHT--I WAS HOPING--

--THEY WERE ONLY NIGHTMARES.

OH, CITRINA, HOW CAN YOU ASK ME TO DO THIS? HOW COULD ANYONE BE ASKED TO DO SUCH A THING? IT'S HORRIBLE--HORRIBLE!!

I KNOW, MY DARLING DAUGHTER. I KNOW.



THEN HELP ME! SHOW ME A WAY OUT!

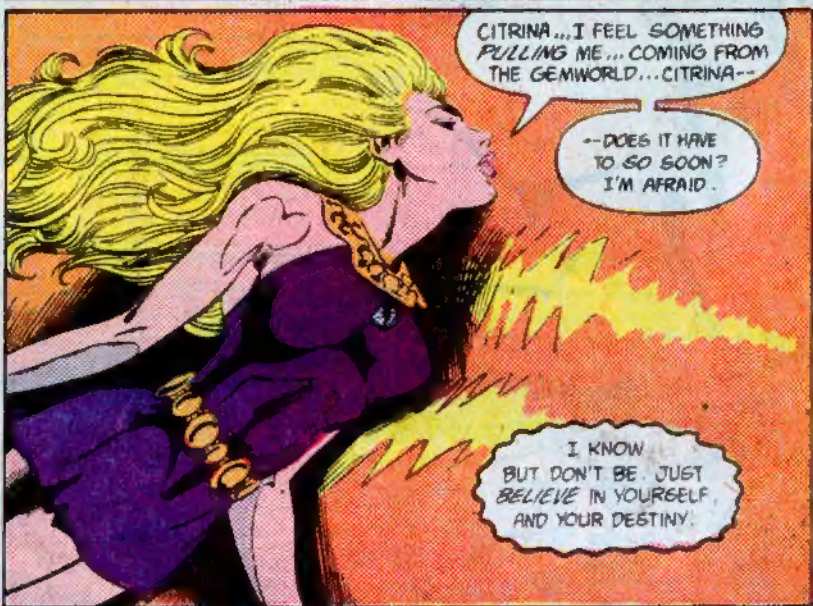
THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO.



CAN'T I JUST STAY HERE WITH YOU?

NO. NOT YET. YOU DON'T BELONG HERE YET.

BUT I WILL? WHEN? SOON?



CITRINA...I FEEL SOMETHING PULLING ME...COMING FROM THE GEMWORLD...CITRINA--

--DOES IT HAVE TO SO SOON? I'M AFRAID.

I KNOW BUT DON'T BE. JUST BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND YOUR DESTINY.



AND I'LL BE WAITING.

CITRINA?-- CITRINA?? I CAN'T HEAR YOU CLEARLY. WHERE ARE YOU? AREN'T YOU COMING WITH ME? CITRINA?



I'LL BE WAITING.



WE DID IT, FLAW! THE GEMWORLD BELONGS TO CHAOS NOW! THANKS TO YOU, LITTLE GOODY-TWO-SHOES AMETHYST AIN'T NEVER COMIN' BACK.

IT'S YOU AND ME, FLAW. WE'RE UNSTOPPABLE! WE'RE THE GREATEST TEAM SINCE PEANUT-BUTTER AND JELLY! SINCE BABE RUTH AND BASEBALL! SINCE SODOM AND GOMORRAH!

SMELL IT, FLAW! THE GEMWORLD HAS CRACKED OPEN AND FALLEN INTO ITS OWN SEWER! IT STINKS, DOESN'T IT? THE AIR IS FULL OF THE STENCH!

BE CAREFUL, LITTLE ONE. DO NOT FALL.

WILLIE SHAKESPEARE WAS WRONG, FLAW! A ROSE COULD NEVER SMELL SO SWEET!

YES FALL FALL BACK INTO THE DEVIL PIT YOU CRAWLED OUT OF. FALL BACK AND NEVER RETURN.



TSK. TSK, WHITEY. BETTER WATCH WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. BESIDES, I THOUGHT WE WERE *PRIS*. I THOUGHT WE HAD *PLANS*.

WE STILL DO, DON'T WE? ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE? A HOME IN THE COUNTRY, 2.5 KIDS, AND A TOYOTA IN THE DRIVEWAY?

I-IT'S G-GOOD. I-IT'S A G-GOOD L-LIFE.



THOUGHT YOU'D SEE IT MY WAY.



YOUNG SIR, PLEASE COME DOWN. IT IS DANGEROUS UP THERE.

EASE UP, FLAW. I'M OKAY.



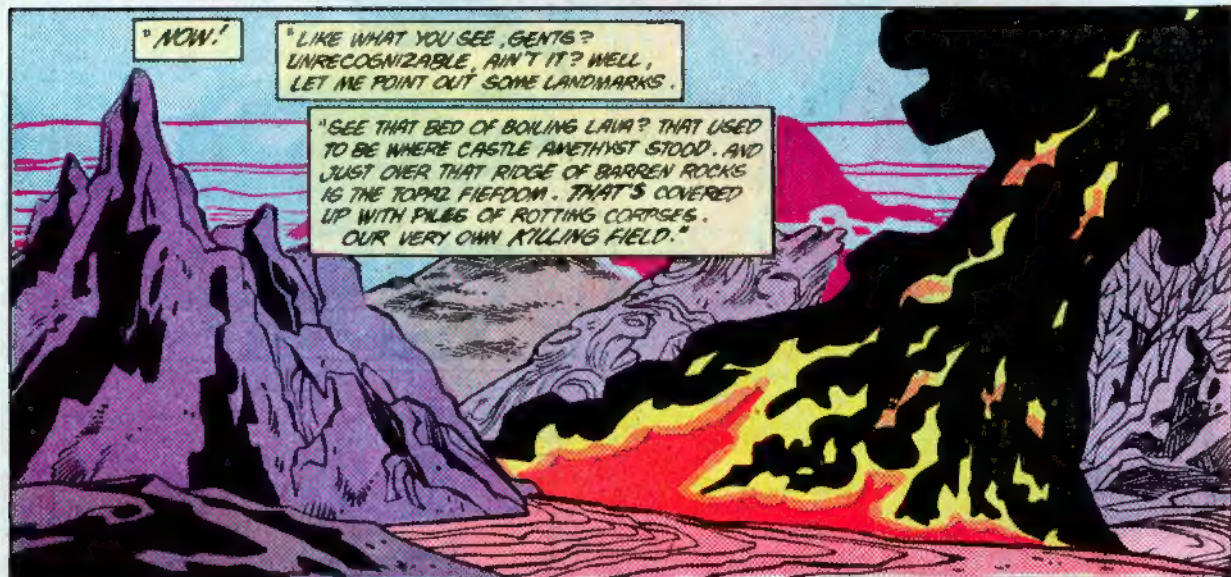
'SIDES, I WANT THE OTHERS TO GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF ME, AND THE RECEPTION IS BETTER FROM UP HERE.

CAN YOU SEE ME, FELLAS? YOU DIDN'T THINK I COULD DO IT, DID YOU? SAID I WAS TOO YOUNG, TOO IN-EXPERIENCED, TOO COCKY.

WELL, FELLOW LORDS OF CHAOS...



... LOOK AROUND YOU . CATCH
THE SIGHTS . THE FUTURE IS
-- TA-DAAAAHHHHH--



"NOW!"

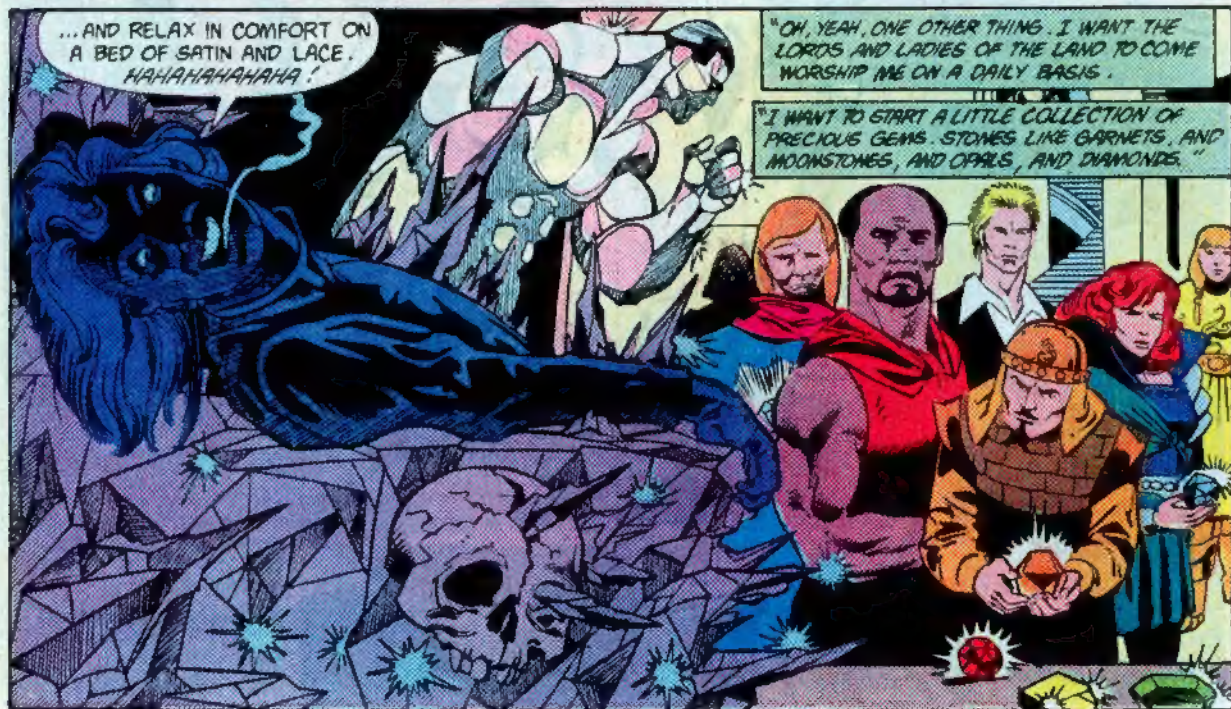
"LIKE WHAT YOU SEE ,GENTS?
UNRECOGNIZABLE ,AIN'T IT? WELL,
LET ME POINT OUT SOME LANDMARKS .

"SEE THAT BED OF BOILING LAVA? THAT USED
TO BE WHERE CASTLE AMETHYST STOOD . AND
JUST OVER THAT RIDGE OF BARREN ROCKS
IS THE TOPAZ FIEFDOM . THAT'S COVERED
UP WITH PILES OF ROTTING CORPSES .
OUR VERY OWN KILLING FIELD."



LOOKS LIKE I'VE FULFILLED MY
END , DOESN'T IT? SO'S LET ME
SHOW YOU WHAT I WANT IN RETURN .
NOTHING MUCH , REALLY .

JUST A LITTLE PLACE TO
CALL MY OWN , WHERE I CAN
HANG MY HAT , PUT MY FEET
UP AFTER A HARD DAY..



...AND RELAX IN COMFORT ON
A BED OF SATIN AND LACE .
HAHAHAHAHAHA!

"OH , YEAH , ONE OTHER THING . I WANT THE
LORDS AND LADIES OF THE LAND TO COME
WORSHIP ME ON A DAILY BASIS .

"I WANT TO START A LITTLE COLLECTION OF
PRECIOUS GEMS . STONES LIKE GARNETS , AND
MOONSTONES , AND OPALS , AND DIAMONDS ."

"AND I'LL KNOW JUST WHERE TO GET THEM. OOH. I CAN SEE IT NOW!"

FORGIVE ME, LORD, IF MY HANDS SHAKE, BUT 'TIS ONLY THAT I FEAR TO DROP THE STONE, AND DAMAGE ITS BEAUTY.

YOU'D BETTER NOT DROP IT, GARNET. YOU'D BETTER PUT IT DOWN GENTLY--

--OR THE NEXT TIME YOU BRING ME A GIFT, YOU'LL BE GORRY.

REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO TURQUOISE WHEN SHE WAS CARELESS WITH HER PRESENT?

I TOOK HER OUT WITH ONE SOLID PUNCH TO THE JAW, HAH! SOME WARRIOR QUEEN SHE WAS. NOW, I CAN'T STOP HER FROM GROVELING AT MY FEET.

YEAH, I'M REALLY GONNA ENJOY THAT PART OF THE FUTURE.

"FATHERS WILL OFFER THEIR DAUGHTERS TO ME, MOTHERS WILL GIVE ME THEIR SONS."

BOY, WILL I!

"... AND THE WORLD ITSELF WILL SHUDDER IN CHAOTIC ECSTASY."

THERE'LL BE DESPAIR, AND DEATH, AND GLOOM AND DOOM ALL OVER THE LAND...

HAHAHAHAHAHA



YES, ME.

YOU'RE A FOOL TO RETURN! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR DESTINY IS, AMETHYST? I'M GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO GO BACK! THIS IS *NOT* YOUR PLACE ANYMORE!

YES IT IS! IT WILL *ALWAYS* BE MINE.

YOU'RE A BIGGER FOOL THAN I THOUGHT!

NO, YOU ARE THE FOOL.



HAHAHAHA! I GET IT! YOU WENT HOME, WATCHED FLAM BEAT THE STUFFING OUT OF YOUR DOG AND YOUR DADDY, SAW THAT YOUR MAMA IS THE MADWOMAN OF CHAILLOT, AND THAT LITTLE PRINCESS EMERALD HAD TAKEN YOUR PLACE.

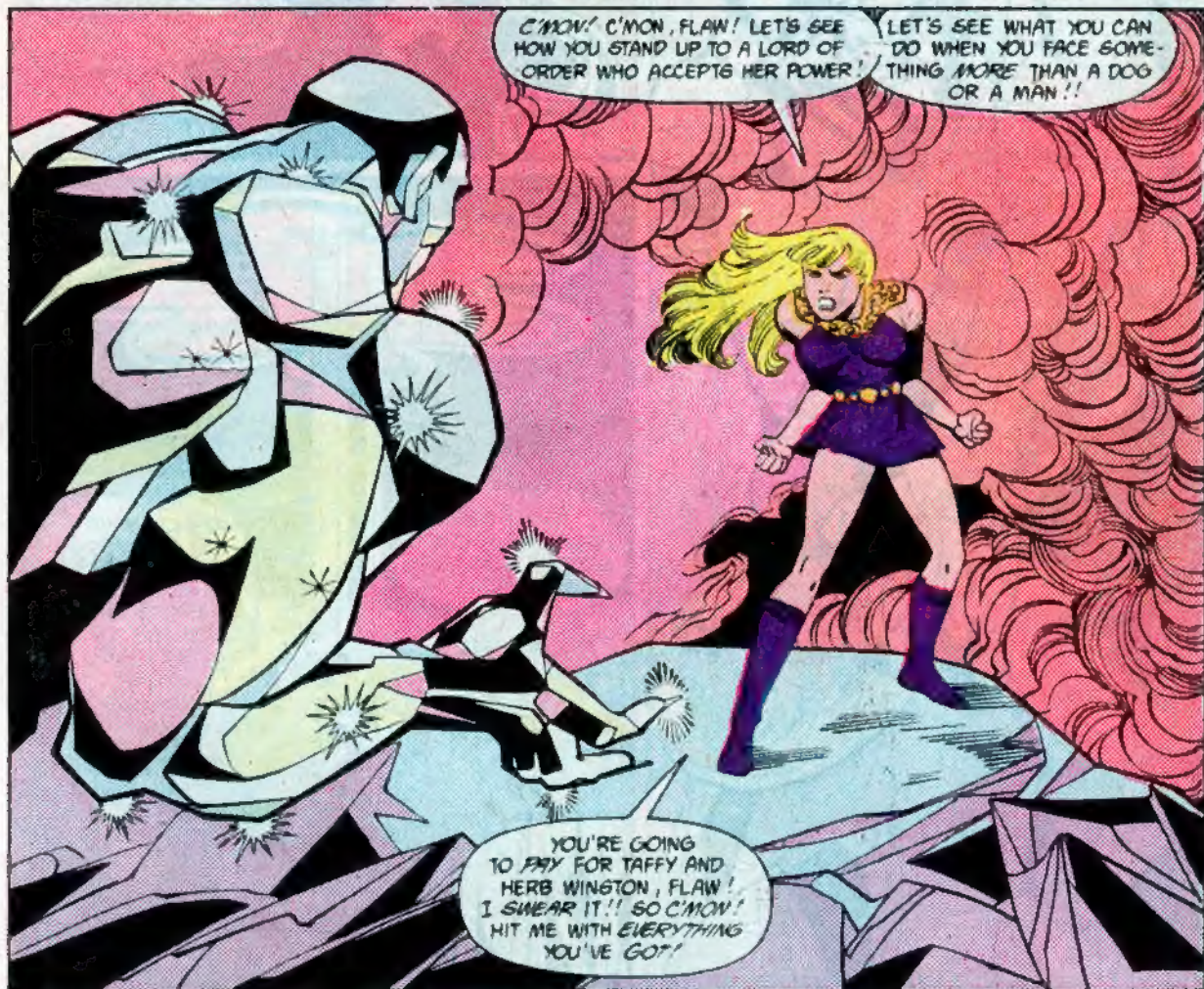
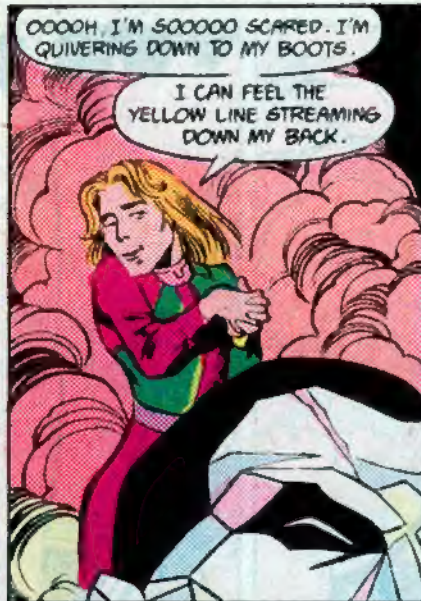
SO YOU WATCHED MAGNUM FORCE, SAW A FEW EPISODES OF THE EQUALIZER, SAT THROUGH A FEW SCREENINGS OF RAMBO...

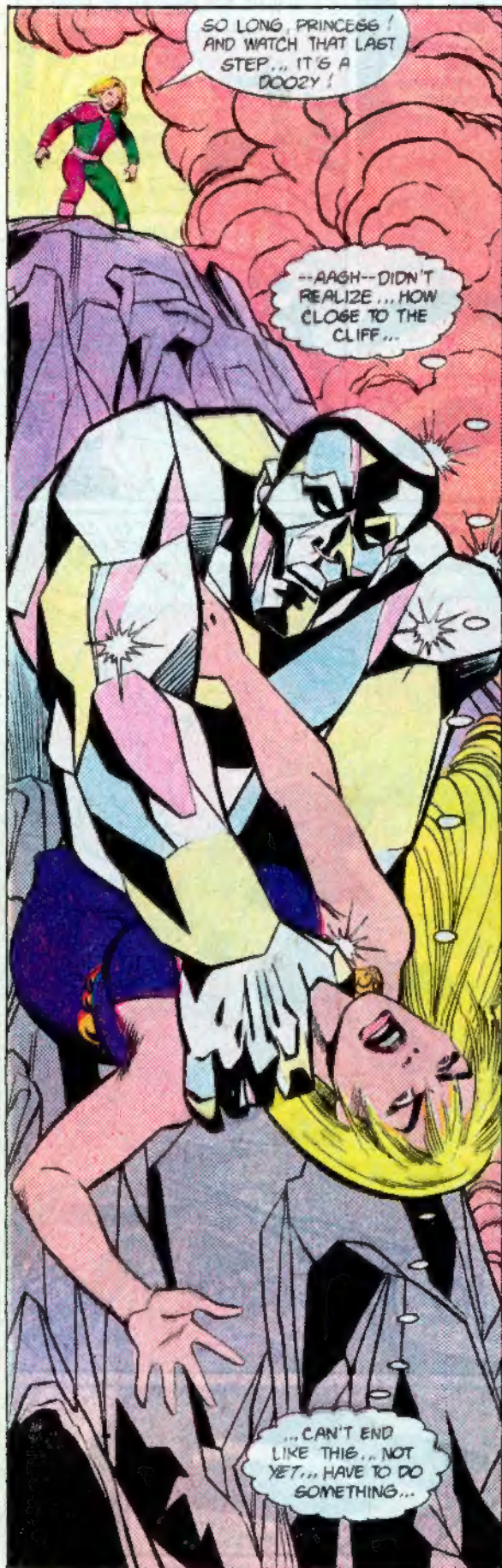
...AND DECIDED TO COME BACK FOR A LITTLE WAR-NOGRAPHY.

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT TO SEE IT.

"YOU CAN'T SEE A THING. YOU'RE BLIND! REMEMBER?"



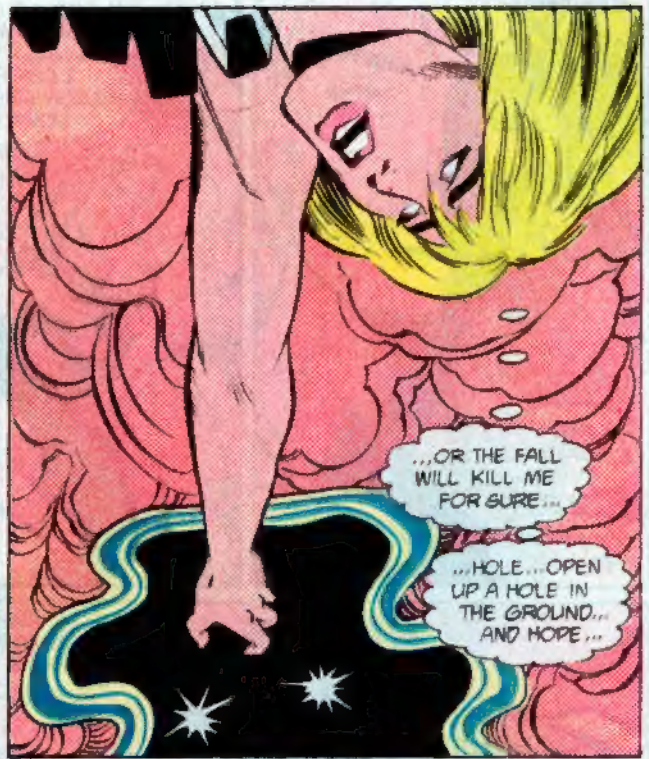




SO LONG, PRINCESS!
AND WATCH THAT LAST
STEP... IT'S A
DOOZY!

--AASH--DIDN'T
REALIZE... HOW
CLOSE TO THE
CLIFF...

...CAN'T END
LIKE THIS... NOT
YET... HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING...



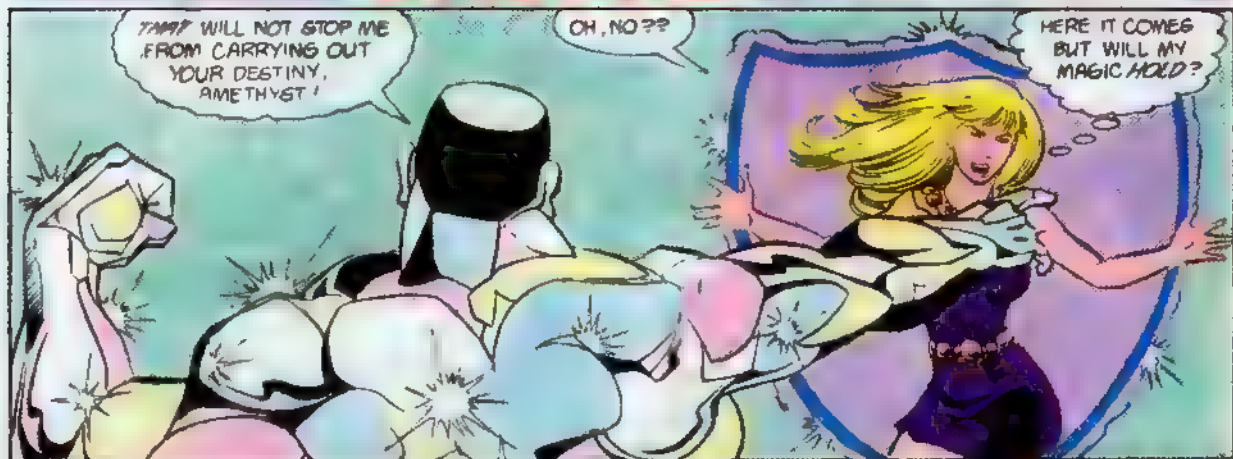
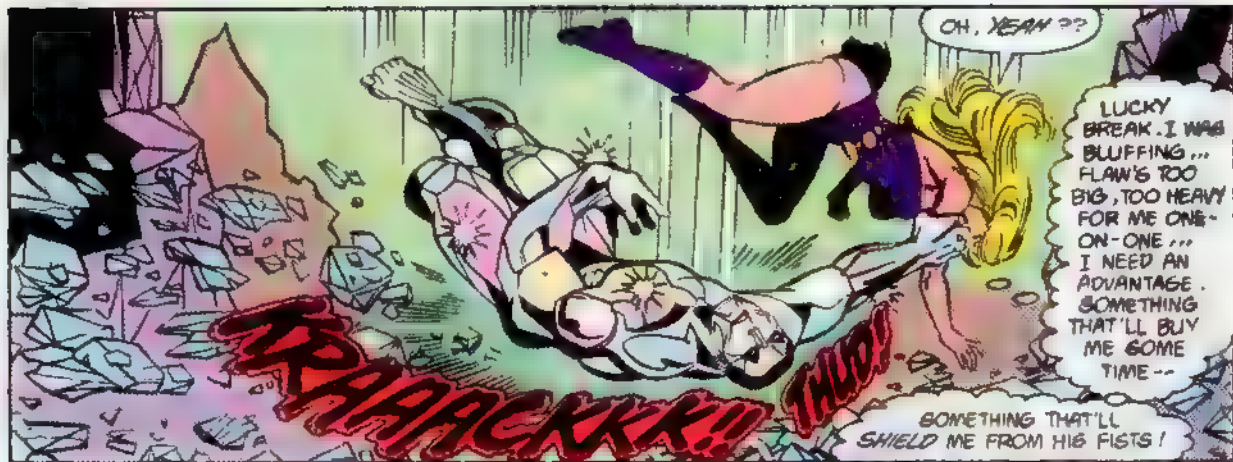
...OR THE FALL
WILL KILL ME
FOR SURE...

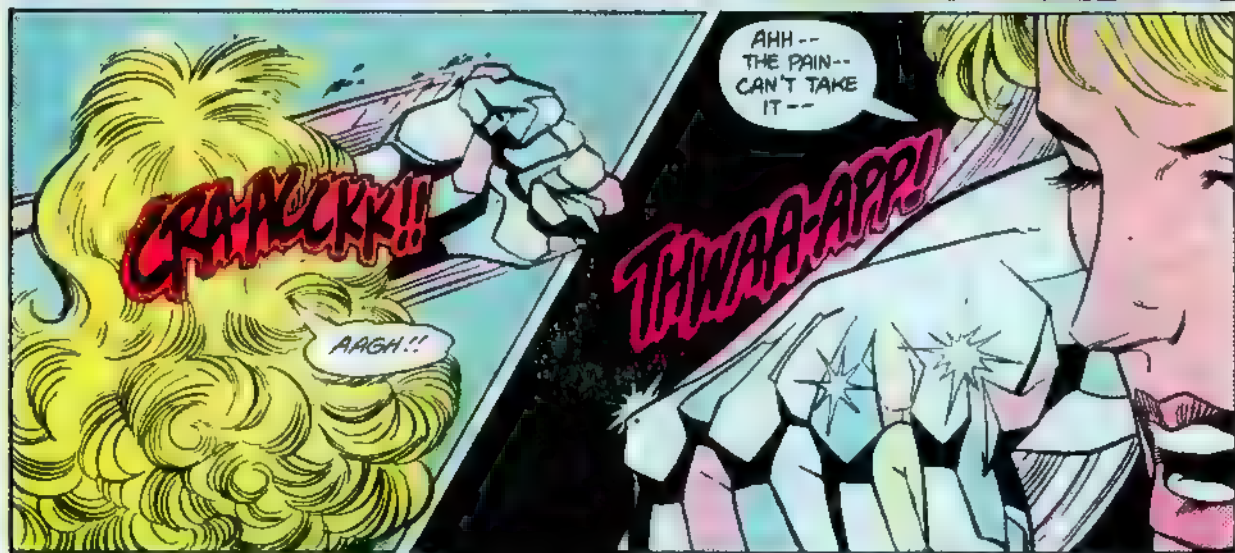
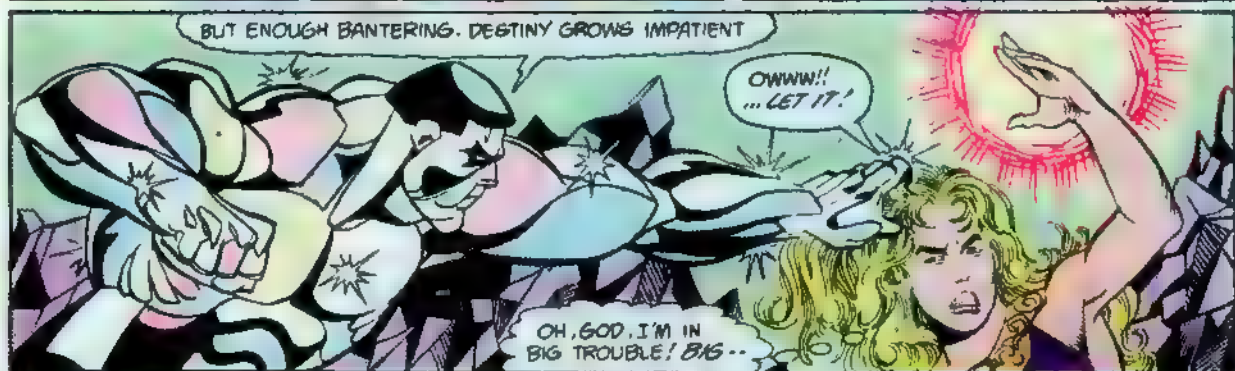
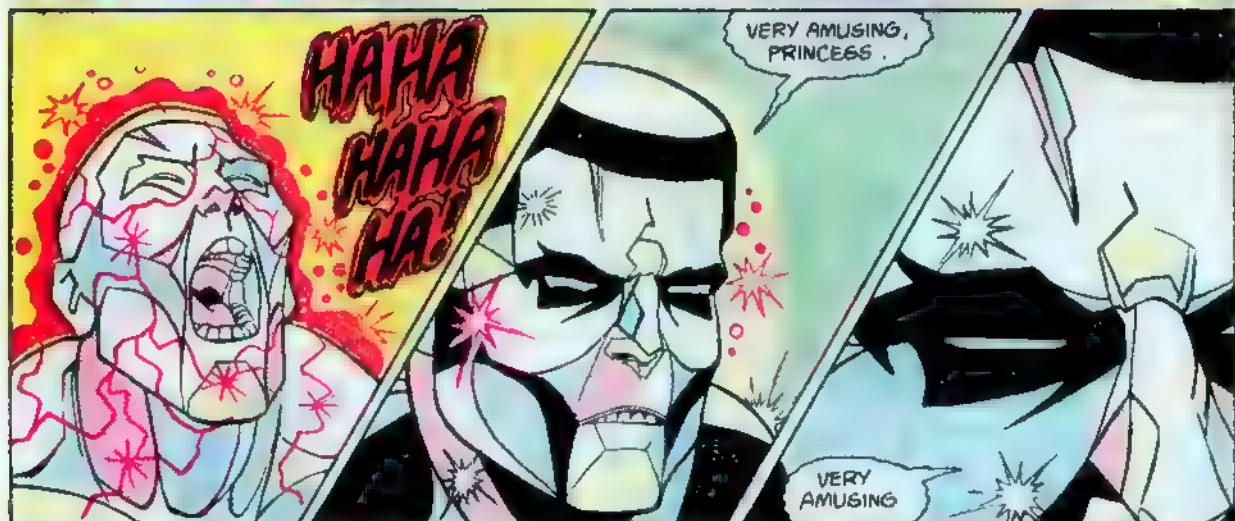
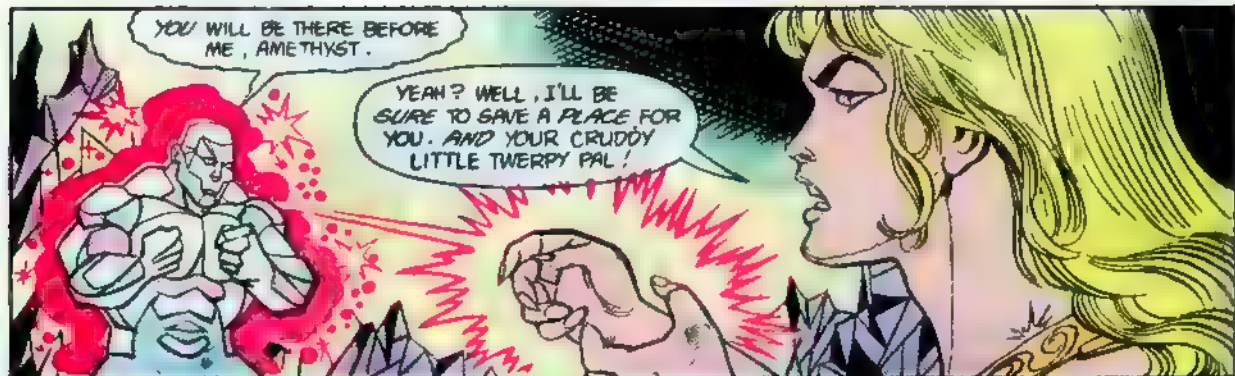
...HOLE... OPEN
UP A HOLE IN
THE GROUND...
AND HOPE...

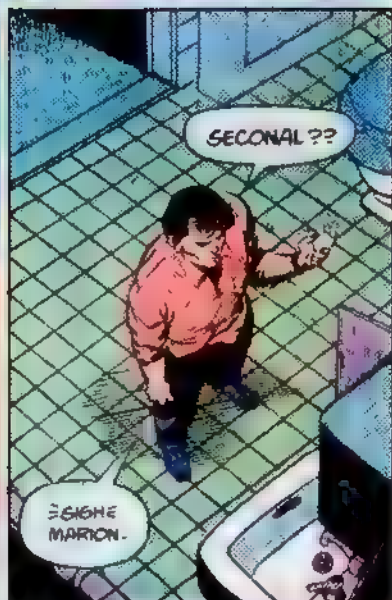


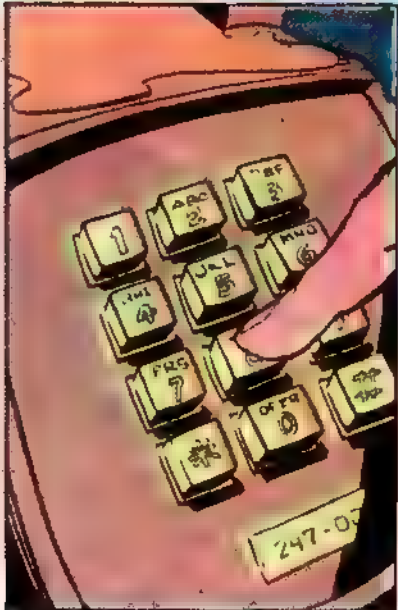
...THAT I CAN
SHIFT MY WEIGHT
SO THAT FLAW TAKES
THE IMPACT...

I KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE TRYING
TO DO, AMETHYST.
IT WON'T WORK.
THERE IS ONLY
ONE END TO
ORDER AND
CHAOS









I DON'T WANT IT TO BE OVER. NOT YET

HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING... ANYTHING... MAYBE... MAYBE THE LIGHT...

THE LIGHT OF ORDER HAS NO AFFECT ON ME, AMETHYST I SERVE THE DARKNESS OF CHAOS, BUT I AM NOT PART OF IT

TH- THEN WHAT ARE YOU?

THE SUM OF ALL THAT IS IMPERFECT IN THE GEMWORLD. I AM FLAW--

I AM THE DESTROYER!

NO!--
AGGH--

THIS STUFF... IT'S DIAMOND... THE HARDEST GEMSTONE. MAYBE I CAN USE IT AS A WEAPON.

IF WHAT FLAW SAYS IS TRUE-- IF HE IS MADE OF THE DAMAGED STONES OF THE GEMWORLD-- THEN HE MUST HAVE A SOFT SPOT...

... AND I'M BETTING I KNOW JUST WHERE IT IS!

HEY, FLAW! LET'S TALK!

YOU HEAR ME? MAYBE WE CAN WORK OUT A DEAL. Y'KNOW, TALK TURKEY. ORDER CAN OFFER AS MUCH AS CHAOS, Y'KNOW!

NO DEALS

AH, C MON!

HERE HE COMES. ONLY GONNA GET ONE CHANCE AT THIS, GO...

... BETTER MAKE IT GOOD!

WHAT?!???

NOTHING HAPPENED. HE SHOULD HAVE BROKEN INTO A MILLION PIECES. I MUST HAVE JUST MISSED IT AND I'M NOT GOING TO GET ANOTHER CHANCE. HE'LL BE READY FOR ME NOW.

DAMN IT!!

YES. DAMN YOU, AMETHYST! SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME! NOW I AM TRULY FLAWED! YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS, AMETHYST!


NOW YOU ARE TRULY DAMNED!!

NO CHANCE NOW!

NO CHANCE AT---

UMMM...WHO AM I KIDDING?...WHY DO I KEEP GOING ON?...IT'S USELESS...SHUT UP, FLAW...

...GIVE UP...FORGET IT...LEAVE ME ALONE ALREADY...LEAVE ME ALONE...SHUT UP, FLAW...



I HEAR THE SHATTERED BREATH OF
YOUR LUNGS, AMETHYST! YOUR BODY
BETRAYS YOU! IT CRIES FOR REST!
IT CRIES FOR PEACE--

--IT CRIES FOR DEATH!!

ONLY-UHHH-YOUR
DEATH, FLAW'ON-LY
YOURSSSSSSSS

BOOP

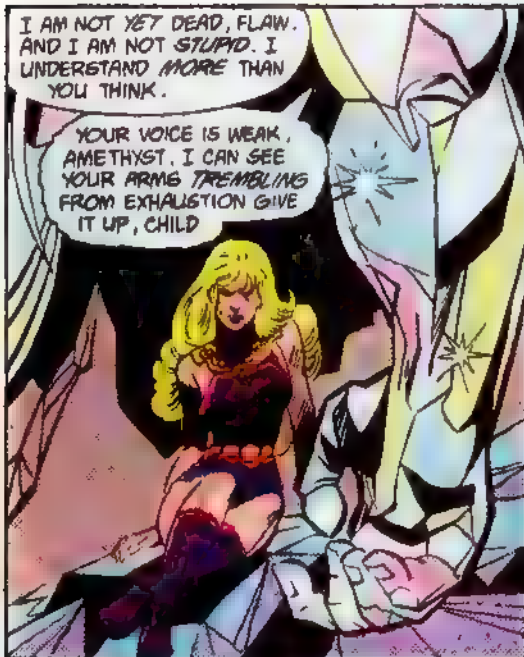
HAHAHAHAHA!
STICKS AND STONES,
AMETHYST? THE WEAPONS
OF CHILDREN?

YOU ARE NO
LORD OF ORDER! YOU
DO NOT EVEN DESERVE
THE POWER OF YOUR
AMULET!

YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD
THE TRUTH! I CAN ALMOST
FEEL SORRY FOR YOU,
AMETHYST, ALMOST...

DON'T MOVE. DON'T
GIVE HIM A HINT. LET
HIM COME CLOSER. HE
THINKS YOU'RE BEATEN.
LET HIM.

... BUT
NOT QUITE



I AM NOT YET DEAD, FLAW.
AND I AM NOT STUPID. I
UNDERSTAND MORE THAN
YOU THINK.

YOUR VOICE IS WEAK,
AMETHYST. I CAN SEE
YOUR ARMS TREMBLING
FROM EXHAUSTION GIVE
IT UP, CHILD



I CAN BE
MERCIFUL



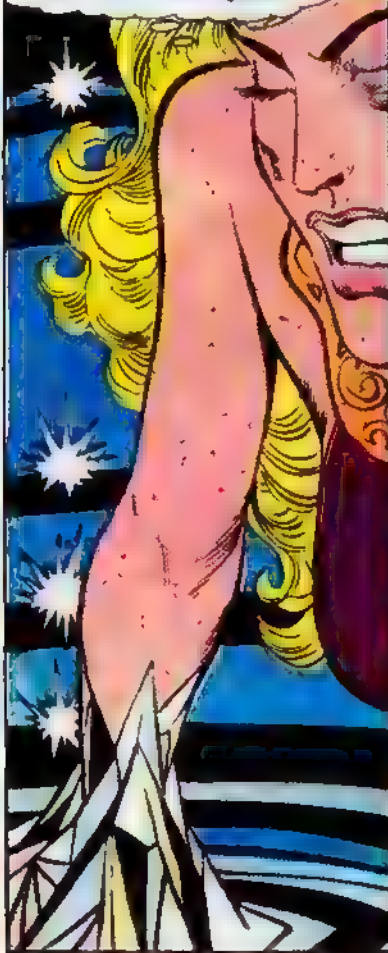
A QUICK DEATH, IS THAT
WHAT YOU'RE OFFERING
ME FLAW?

IS THAT YOUR IDEA
OF MERCY?

WELL, I SHALL SHOW
YOU MINE!

DIDN'T WANT IT TO COME TO THIS...
BUT DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE
ANYMORE... IF I EVER DID

CITRINA AND DOCTOR FATE BOTH
SAID I WAS PART OF THE GEMWORLD.
THAT I WAS THE EMBODIMENT OF
ITS SOUL... THEN THE TIME HAS
COME FOR US TO MERGE..



NOOOOO!!
AMETHYST,
STOP! STOP!
BEFORE IT
IS TOO
LATE!

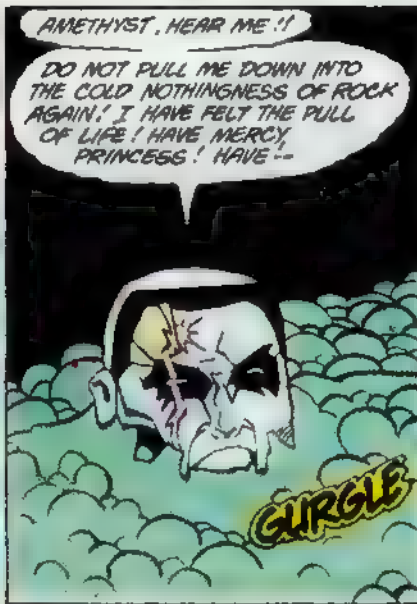
... FOR ME TO
BECOME PART OF
THE LAND... BE PART
OF THE LANDDDD--
AYEEEEEEEEE!!!



NO!! LET GO OF ME!

I DO NOT WANT TO STOP EXISTING! PRINCESS, I BEG YOU, STOP!!

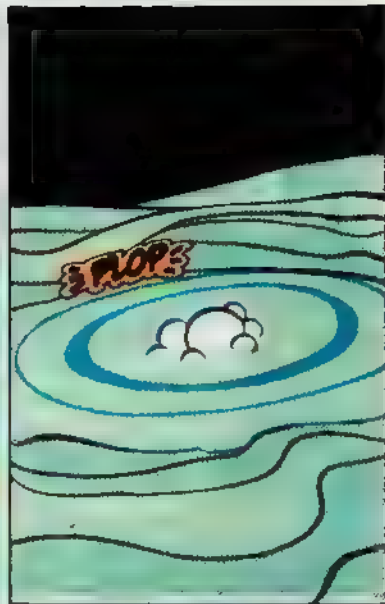
GURGLE



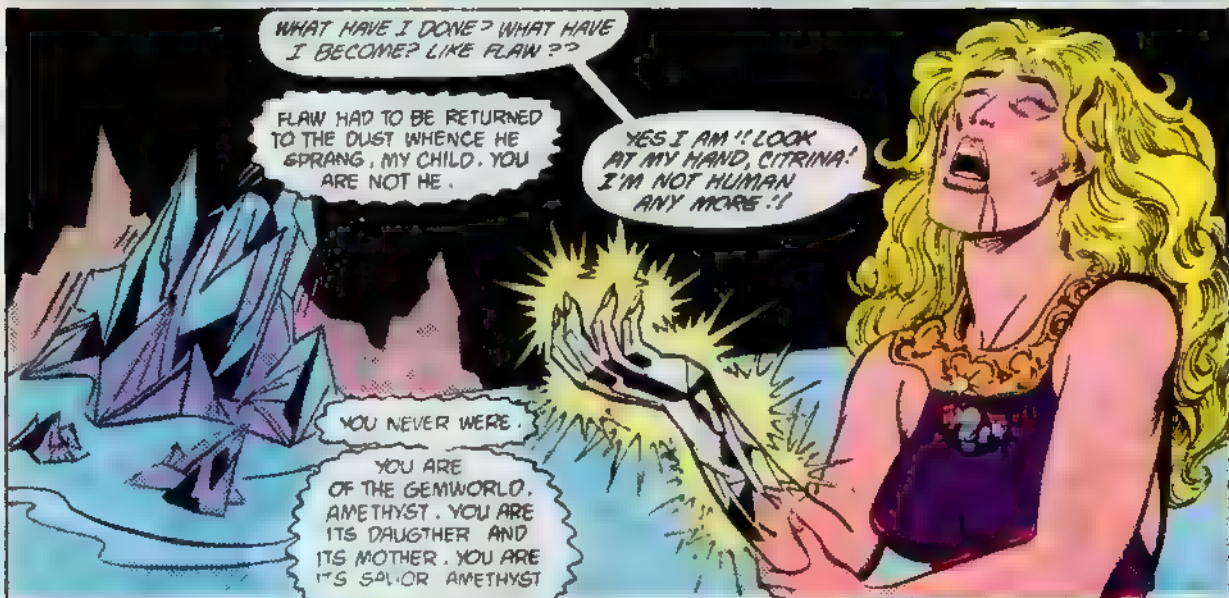
AMETHYST, HEAR ME!!

DO NOT PULL ME DOWN INTO THE COLD NOTHINGNESS OF ROCK AGAIN! I HAVE FELT THE PULL OF LIFE! HAVE MERCY, PRINCESS! HAVE --

GURGLE



FLOPE



WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT HAVE I BECOME? LIKE FLAW??

FLAW HAD TO BE RETURNED TO THE DUST WHENCE HE SPRANG, MY CHILD. YOU ARE NOT HE.

YES I AM!! LOOK AT MY HAND, CITRINA! I'M NOT HUMAN ANY MORE!!

YOU NEVER WERE.

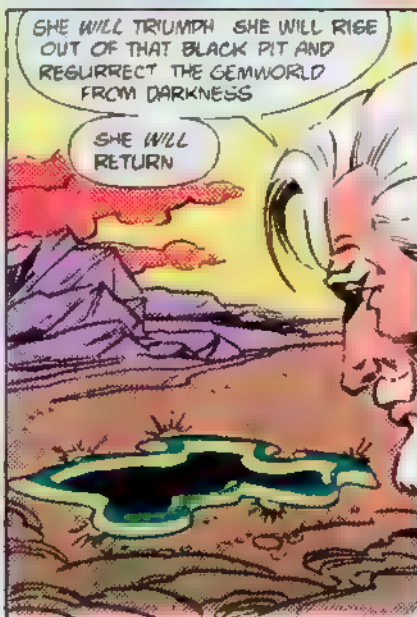
YOU ARE OF THE GEMWORLD, AMETHYST. YOU ARE ITS DAUGHTER AND ITS MOTHER. YOU ARE ITS SAVIOR AMETHYST



NOW GO RETURN ORDER TO YOUR LAND.

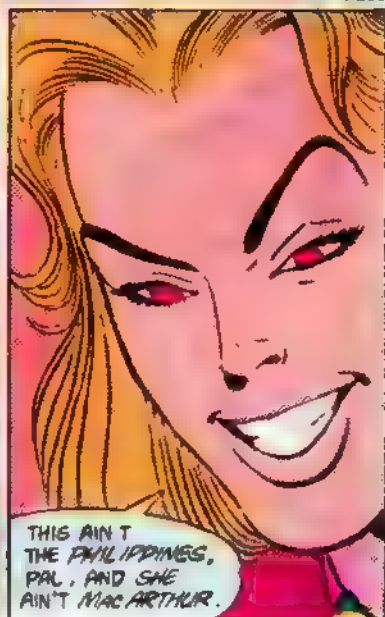
WHY SO BLUE, WHITEY? DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

PRINCESS AMETHYST WILL RETURN, CHAOS. WITHOUT YOUR GLASS COMPANION.

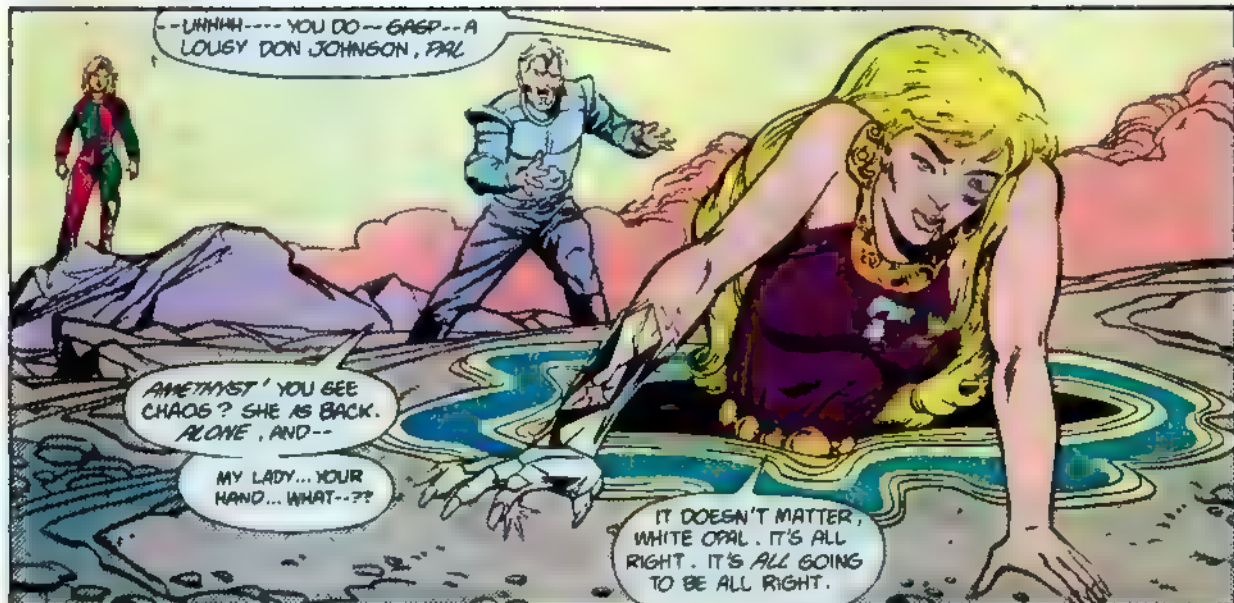


SHE WILL TRIUMPH SHE WILL RISE OUT OF THAT BLACK PIT AND REGURRECT THE GEMWORLD FROM DARKNESS

SHE WILL RETURN



THIS AIN'T THE PHILIPPINES, PAL, AND SHE AIN'T MAC ARTHUR.



--UNHHH--- YOU DO-- GASP-- A LOUSY DON JOHNSON, PAL

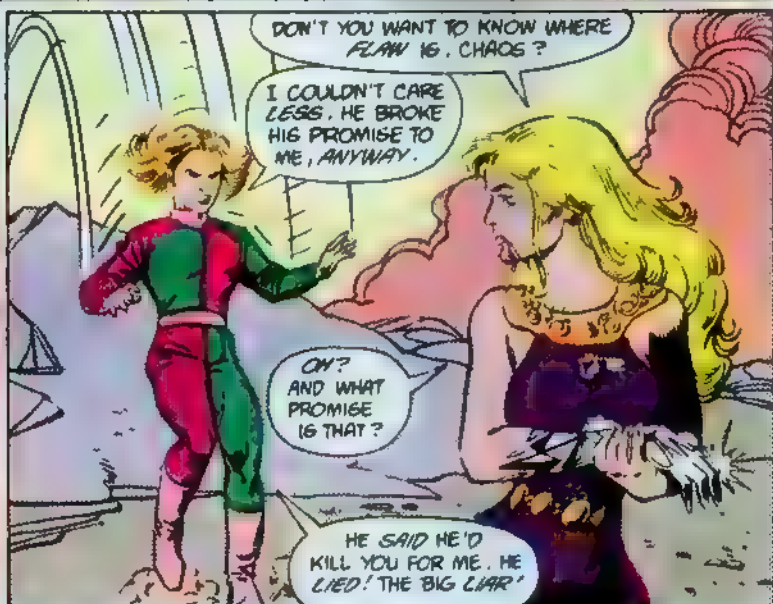
AMETHYST! YOU SEE CHAOS? SHE IS BACK ALONE, AND--

MY LADY... YOUR HAND... WHAT--??

IT DOESN'T MATTER, WHITE OPAL. IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S ALL GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.



NO IT'S NOT! THE GEMWORLD IS MINE! YOU CAN'T HAVE IT BACK! I WON IT FAIR AND SQUARE!

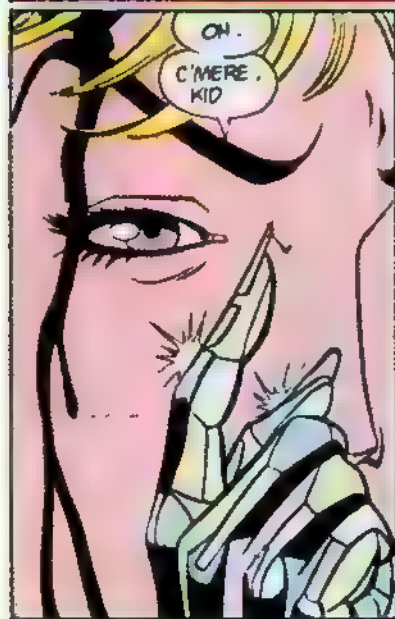


DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE FLAW 16, CHAOS?

I COULDN'T CARE LESS. HE BROKE HIS PROMISE TO ME, ANYWAY.

OH? AND WHAT PROMISE IS THAT?

HE SAID HE'D KILL YOU FOR ME. HE LIED! THE 'BIG LIAR'!



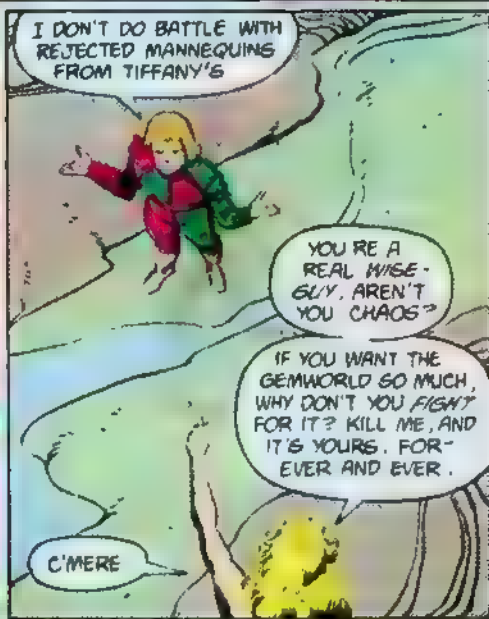
OH.

C'MERE, KID



HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING, PRINCESS!

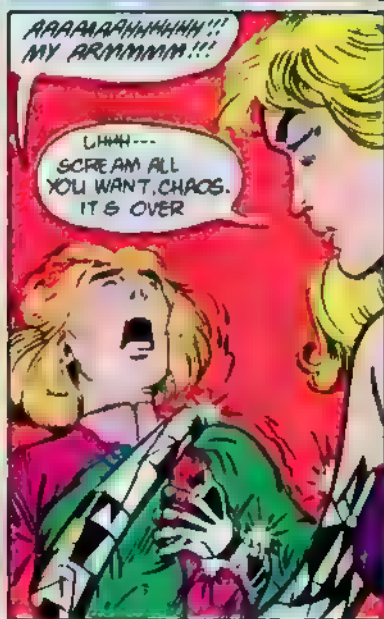
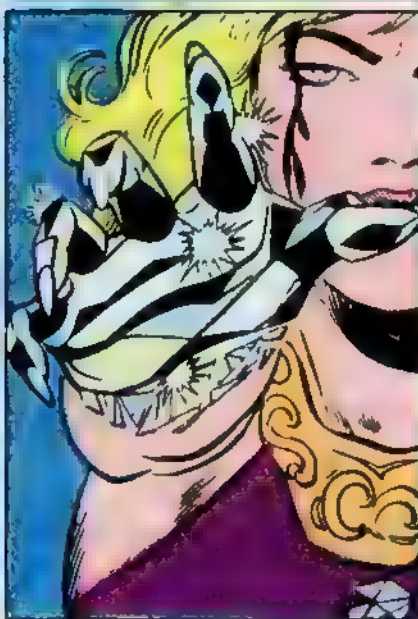
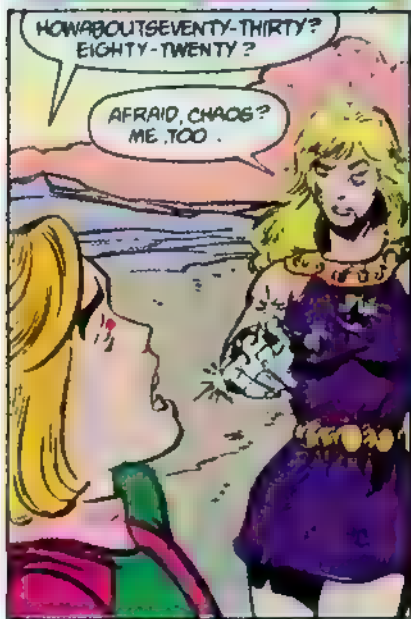
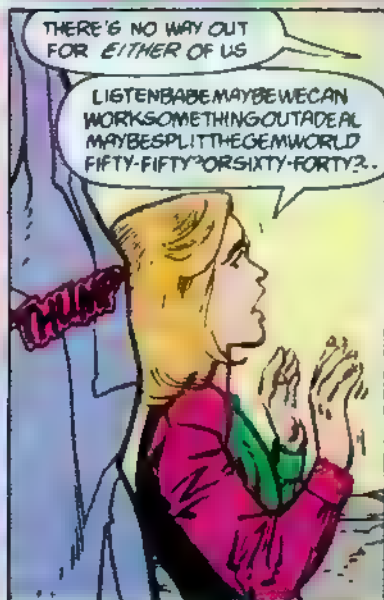
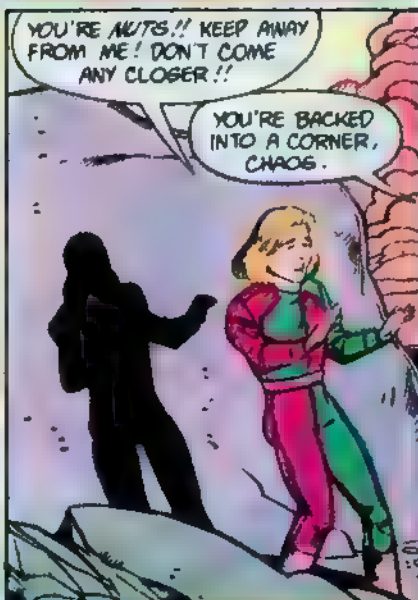
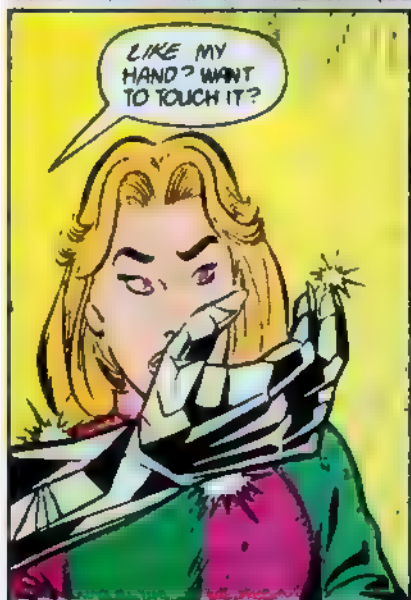
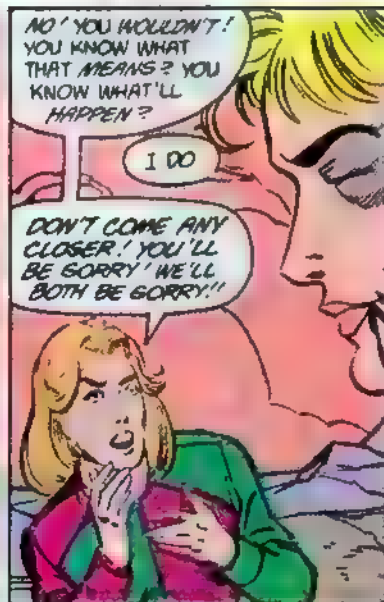
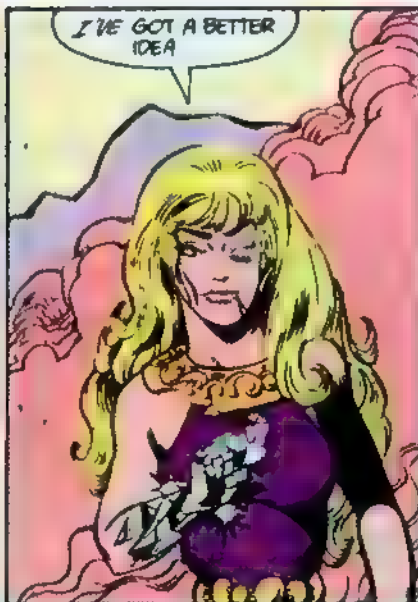


I DON'T DO BATTLE WITH REJECTED MANNEQUINS FROM TIFFANY'S

YOU'RE A REAL WISE-GUY, AREN'T YOU CHAOS?

IF YOU WANT THE GEMWORLD SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT FOR IT? KILL ME, AND IT'S YOURS. FOR- EVER AND EVER.

C'MERE





OWWWWW!!!
LET GOOOO!!!
YOU'RE HURTING
MEEE!!!

I KNOW. I
HURT TOO



PL-PLEASE... I
DON'T WANNA GO
NOW... PLEASE

I KNOW, KID
I DON'T WANT
TO--UHH--GO
EITHER.

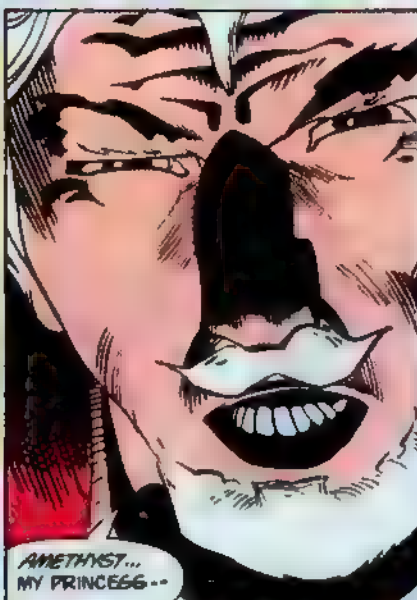


BUT WE'LL BOTH HAVE WHAT
WE WANT. WE'LL BOTH HAVE
THE GEMWORLD.

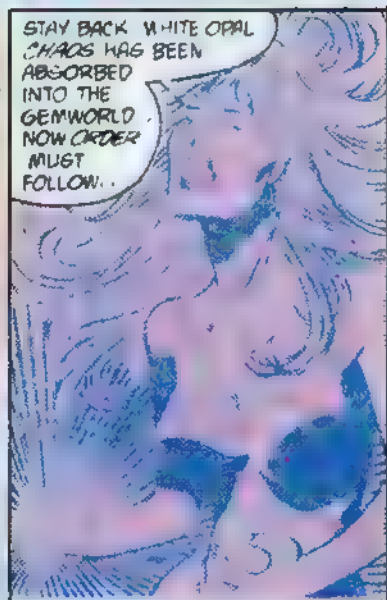


IT'LL GO ON. IT'LL BE A HEALTHY,
THRIVING WORLD...

...WITH ITS OWN SHARE
OF ORDER AND CHAOS.
LIKE ANYTHING ELSE
THAT LIVES.



AMETHYST...
MY PRINCESS...



STAY BACK WHITE OPAL
CHAOS HAS BEEN
ABSORBED
INTO THE
GEMWORLD.
NOW ORDER
MUST
FOLLOW...



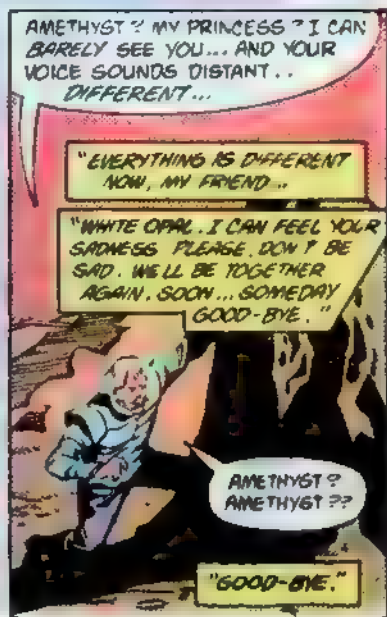
AAAGHHH!!!
MY EYES!!!!... AMETHYST,
WHAT'S HAPPENING??



I HEAR THE FEAR IN YOUR VOICE,
WHITE OPAL. DON'T BE AFRAID.
EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT NOW.

THE
GEMWORLD IS
SAFE, AT LAST. I
CAN SEE ITS FUTURE, WHITE OPAL.
IT IS A GOOD ONE, A HAPPY ONE.

I'M GLAD TO HAVE
HELPED IT COME TO PASS.



AMETHYST? MY PRINCESS? I CAN
BARELY SEE YOU... AND YOUR
VOICE SOUNDS DISTANT..
DIFFERENT...

"EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT
NOW, MY FRIEND..."

"WHITE OPAL, I CAN FEEL YOUR
SADNESS PLEASE, DON'T BE
SAD. WE'LL BE TOGETHER
AGAIN, SOON... SOMEDAY
GOOD-BYE."

AMETHYST?
AMETHYST??

"GOOD-BYE."



A MIRACLE--I HAVE
BEEN WITNESS TO
A MIRACLE.

WOULD I HAVE BEEN AS
PAINFUL AS SHE WAS IF I
ALREADY BEEN PROVEN. CHAOS
CAME INTO MY WORLD AND
I CRUMBLLED.

BUT A YOUNG
CHILD ACCEPTED IT
WITHOUT DOUBT.

NO THAT IS NOT TRUE
SHE WAS FULL OF DOUBT
AND FEAR AND ANGER SHE
KNEW WHAT DESTINY HAD
DONE TO HER. I SAW IT
IN HER FACE HEARD IT
IN HER VOICE.

EVEN AT THE END--IF THERE
HAD BEEN SOME OTHER WAY
BUT THERE WASN'T WAS
THE PRINCESS.

POOR CHILD, YOU NEVER
WANTED TO BE A LEGEND
DID YOU? YOU NEVER WANTED
THE MANTLE OF ROYALTY, OR
THE BURDEN OF BEING
A HERO.

I NEVER HAD THE CHANCE
TO TELL YOU OF CITRINA'S
VISIT, DID I, AMETHYST?
NOW SHE SPOKE OF HER
GUILT AND OF YOUR DUTY
AND RESPONSIBILITY SHE
KNEW WHAT SHE WAS
DOING TO YOU AMETHYST
WE BOTH DID.

I WONDER IF YOU EVER
KNEW HOW SORRY SHE WAS--
HOW SORRY WE BOTH WERE
THAT YOU HAD TO BE A
CHILDHOOD OF INNOCENCE...

AND NOW
FINDING OUT WE
BOTH ARE

YESTERDAY IT STORMED ON THE GEMWORLD

THE EARTH SHOOK WITH EACH CLAP OF THUNDER, AND CHILDREN TOOK TO THEIR PARENTS' BEDS IN FRIGHT

IT WAS A GOOD, CLEAN, HEALTHY RAIN LAST NIGHT.

BUT AT WHAT COST?

A BEAUTIFUL MORNING, IS IT NOT, LORD GARNET?

A BEFITTING DAY FOR THE CEREMONY

WHY DO YOU NOT ANSWER ME, MY LORD LET ME HEAR OF YOUR PROBLEM.

WE ARE NOT IN YOUR CONFESSIONAL, PRIEST. I DO NOT SEEK YOUR UNDERSTANDING, OR YOUR FORGIVENESS

LIGHTNING FLASHED, AND LOVERS CLASPED EACH OTHER A LITTLE MORE TIGHTLY. GALE WINDS RUSTLED THE THATCHED ROOFS, AND UNDERNEATH THEM, PEASANTS FELT THE CHILL.

BUT FOR ALL ITS SAVAGERY, THE STORM FELT DIFFERENT THAN ANY OTHER BEFORE. IT WAS AS IF, EVEN AS NATURE MOURNED THE LOSS OF SOMETHING WONDEROUS, IT WAS SHAKING OFF THE LAST VESTIGE OF SOMETHING EQUALLY MONSTROUS.

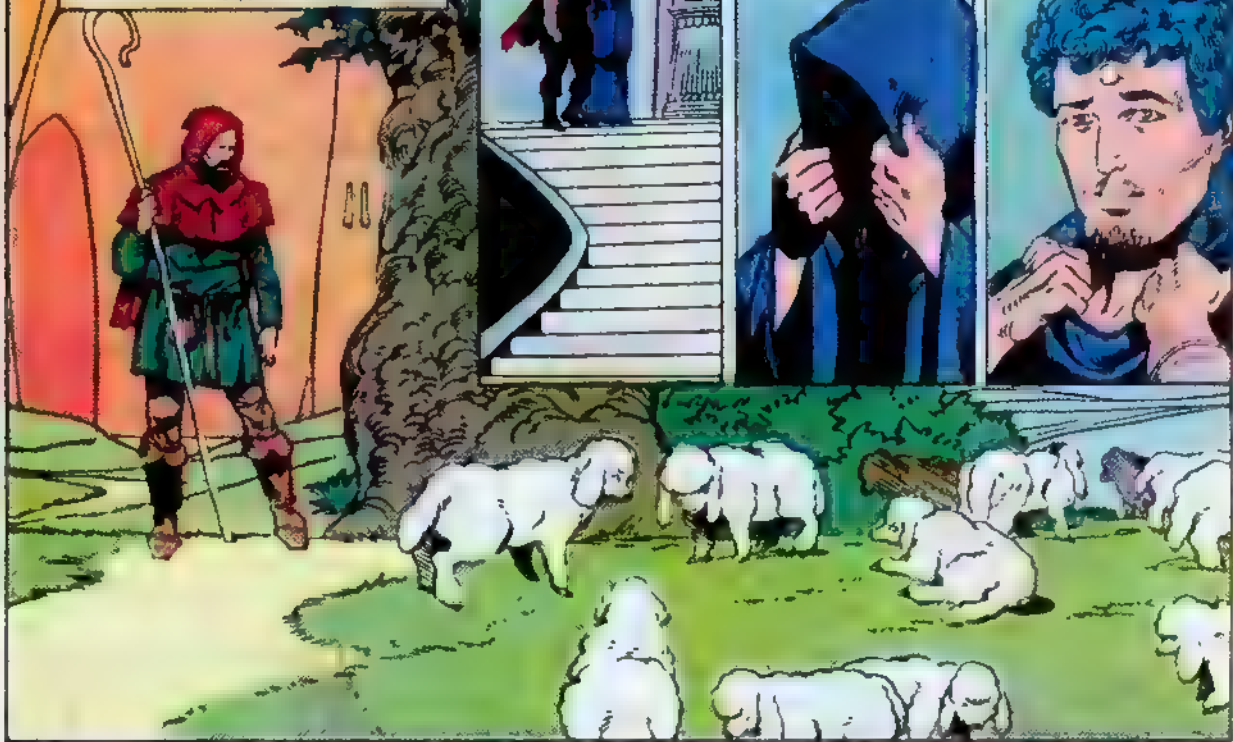
OR MY HOLY INTERVENTION, GARNET?

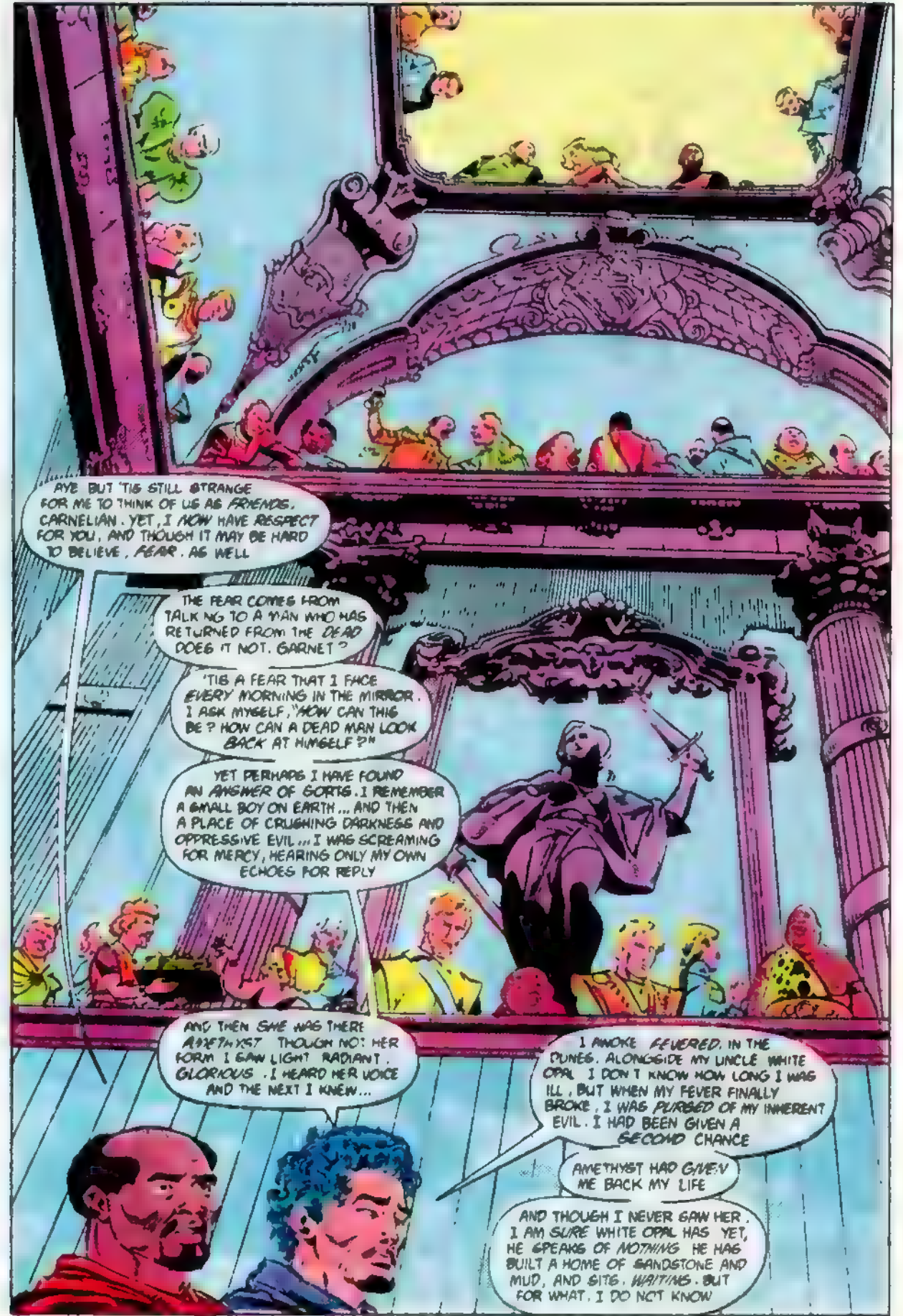
THAT, TOO

THIS COWL HIDES MANY THINGS, MY LORD...

... BUT NOT THE COUNTENANCE OF FRIENDSHIP.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO CALL CARNELIAN FRIEND.





AYE BUT 'TIS STILL STRANGE
FOR ME TO THINK OF US AS FRIENDS.
CARNELIAN. YET, I NOW HAVE RESPECT
FOR YOU, AND THOUGH IT MAY BE HARD
TO BELIEVE, FEAR, AS WELL

THE FEAR COMES FROM
TALKING TO A MAN WHO HAS
RETURNED FROM THE DEAD
DOES IT NOT, GARNET?

'TIS A FEAR THAT I FACE
EVERY MORNING IN THE MIRROR.
I ASK MYSELF, "HOW CAN THIS
BE? HOW CAN A DEAD MAN LOOK
BACK AT HIMSELF?"

YET PERHAPS I HAVE FOUND
AN ANSWER OF SORTS. I REMEMBER
A SMALL BOY ON EARTH... AND THEN
A PLACE OF CRUSHING DARKNESS AND
OPPRESSIVE EVIL... I WAS SCREAMING
FOR MERCY, HEARING ONLY MY OWN
ECHOES FOR REPLY

AND THEN SHE WAS THERE
AMETHYST THOUGH NOT HER
FORM I SAW LIGHT RADIANT,
GLORIOUS. I HEARD HER VOICE
AND THE NEXT I KNEW...

I AWOKE FEVERED, IN THE
DUNES. ALONGSIDE MY UNCLE WHITE
OPAL. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS
ILL, BUT WHEN MY FEVER FINALLY
BROKE, I WAS PURGED OF MY INHERENT
EVIL. I HAD BEEN GIVEN A
SECOND CHANCE

AMETHYST HAD GIVEN
ME BACK MY LIFE

AND THOUGH I NEVER SAW HER,
I AM SURE WHITE OPAL HAS YET,
HE SPEAKS OF NOTHING HE HAS
BUILT A HOME OF SANDSTONE AND
MUD, AND SITS, WAITING. BUT
FOR WHAT, I DO NOT KNOW



HE ALWAYS WAS A STUBBORN OLD COOT.

HAHAHAHA! WAS HE? YOU MUST KNOW DOZENS OF STORIES ABOUT MY UNCLE. I NEVER KNEW HIM WELL. YOU MUST PROMISE TO--

GARNET! HAVE YOU COME TO TELL ME THE JOYS OF MARRIED LIFE, OR ARE YOU HERE TO WARN ME THAT MY LOVE WILL SOON TURN INTO A FISHMONGER'S WIFE?

FOR SHAME, TOPAZ! YOUR BREATH IS ALREADY STALE WITH WINE. WEDDINGS ARE A SERIOUS MATTER.

AYE, AND MY FATHER MANY TIMES TOLD ME OF THE SPECTACLE OF HIS BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING!

HE SAID THE LADY GARNET HAD TO BE CONTENT WITH PUTTING A DRUNKEN HUSBAND TO BED WITH ONLY HIS BOOTS FOR COMPANY ON HER WEDDING NIGHT!

HAHA! TRUE!

TRUE ENOUGH... 'TIS GOOD TO SEE YOU RESTORED, CARNELIAN, AND OF THE HOLY ORDER.

AND 'TIS GLAD AM I THAT YOU ARE PERFORMING THE CEREMONY!

YES, TOPAZ, AND SOMEHOW, I SUSPECT THAT AMETHYST IS AS JOYFUL, WHEREVER SHE IS.

PERHAPS SHE WILL SURPRISE US AGAIN. REMEMBER TOPAZ'S LAST "WEDDING"?

MATH-SERIES #7--KB

YES, GARNET I RECALL AMETHYST'S STARTLING ENTRANCE. EVEN THOUGH I WAS RATHER INEBRIATED

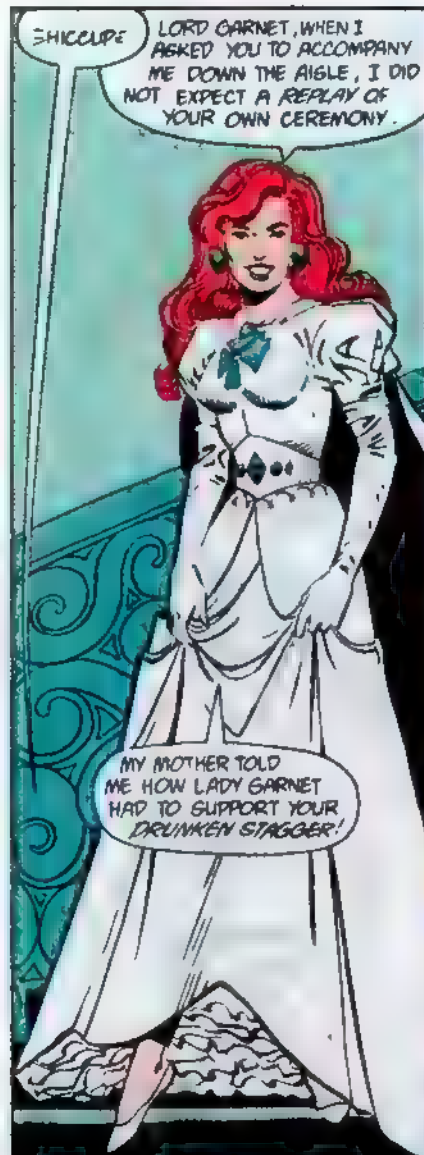
BUT THIS TIME, I FEAR OUR SOVEREIGN PRINCESS HAS VANISHED FOR QUITE SOME WHILE

HER DISAPPEARANCE PLAGUES ME TOO, CARNELIAN. BUT TODAY, I CAN THINK ONLY OF MY BRIDE AND OF OUR FUTURE HAPPINESS.

AMETHYST WOULD HAVE WANTED IT THAT WAY, TOPAZ

THIS, MY LAD, WE HAVE LITTLE TIME TO BID YOUR BACHELORHOOD FAREWELL. GO, POUR ME SOME WINE..

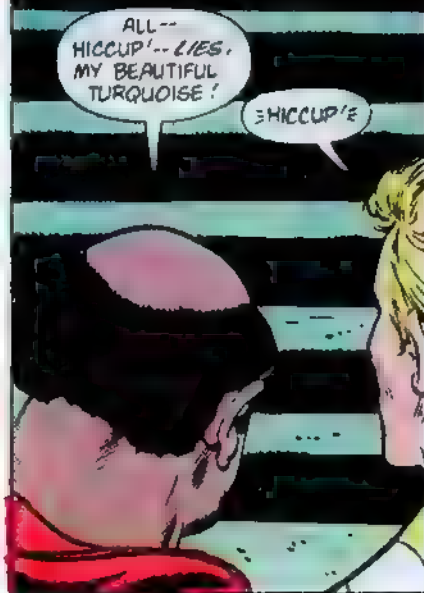
..POUR US ALL SOME FINE SPIRITS, AND I SHALL REGALE YOU WITH LEGENDARY TALES OF--



≡HICCUPE

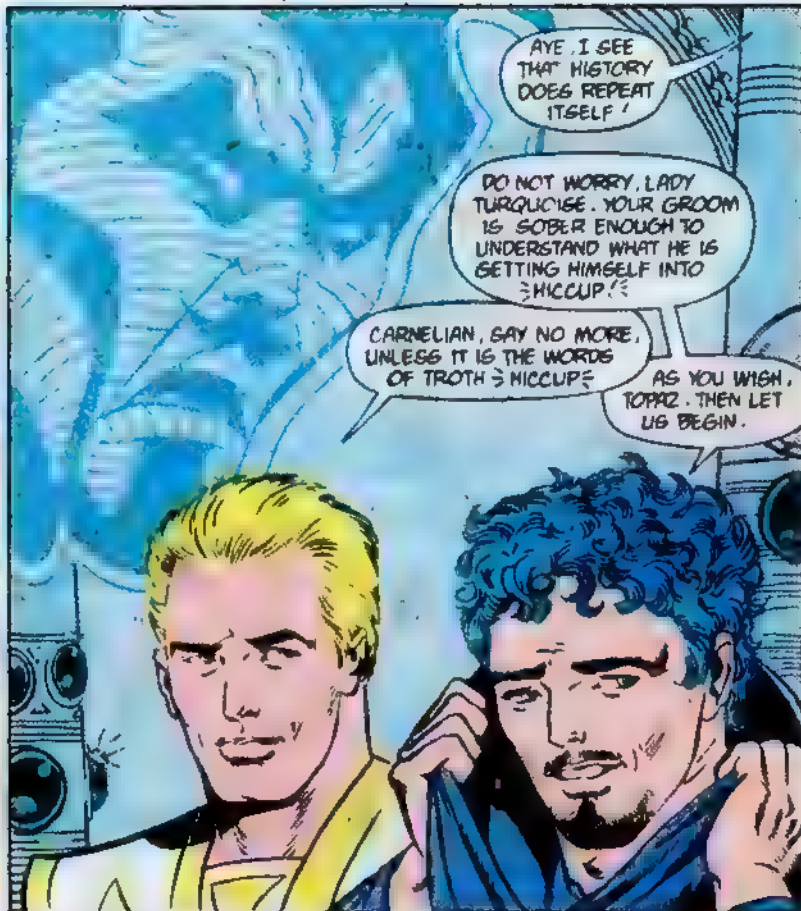
LORD GARNET, WHEN I ASKED YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME DOWN THE AISLE, I DID NOT EXPECT A REPLAY OF YOUR OWN CEREMONY.

MY MOTHER TOLD ME HOW LADY GARNET HAD TO SUPPORT YOUR DRUNKEN STAGGER!



ALL--
HICCUPE!-- LIES,
MY BEAUTIFUL
TURQUOISE!

≡HICCUPE



AYE, I SEE
THAT HISTORY
DOES REPEAT
ITSELF!

DO NOT WORRY, LADY
TURQUOISE. YOUR GROOM
IS SOBER ENOUGH TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT HE IS
GETTING HIMSELF INTO
≡HICCUPE

CARNELIAN, SAY NO MORE,
UNLESS IT IS THE WORDS
OF TROTH ≡HICCUPE

AS YOU WISH,
TOPPZ. THEN LET
US BEGIN.

AND IN THE NAME OF THE GREAT TWELVE HOUSES,
THIS UNION IS BLESSED... MAY YOU EACH STAND
SIDE BY SIDE, EACH NEITHER LEADING NOR FOLLOW-
ING, BUT AIDING AND ABIDING THE OTHER WITH
LOVE AND RESPECT AND DEVOTION.

LORD TOPPZ, PLEASE
TAKE LADY TURQUOISE
BY THE HAND AND REPEAT
AFTER ME ≡HICCUPE



≡HICCUPE

≡SIGH≡
IT'S GOING TO
BE A LONG,
COLD, LONELY
NIGHT

ON EARTH, A GENTLE BREEZE BLOWS THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW...



...AND A COOL MOONLIGHT SHINES DOWN UPON THE FACE OF A SLEEPING CHILD.



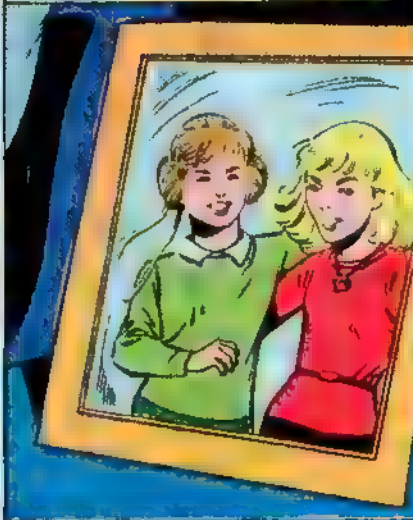
SHE DREAMS OF A MAGIC LAND FILLED WITH CASTLES, FLYING UNICORNS AND WONDEROUSLY POWERED LORDS AND LADIES...



...WHOSE LIVES ARE BOUND TO EACH OTHER IN LOVE AND HONOR, AND WHO TOGETHER FACE GREAT ADVENTURE AND DANGER.



AND IN HER DREAMS, THE CHILD IS EQUAL AMONG THEM, AS SHE COMMANDS THE ELEMENTS.



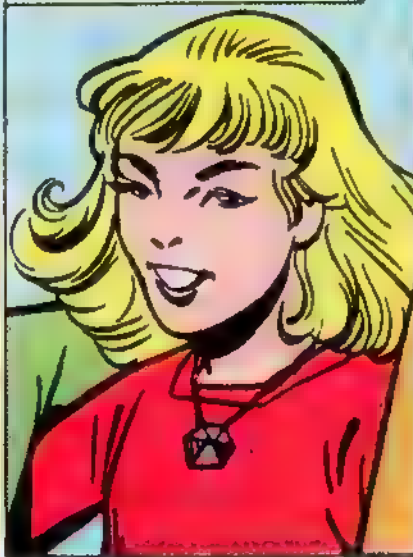
...FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE WITH HER DEAREST FRIEND...



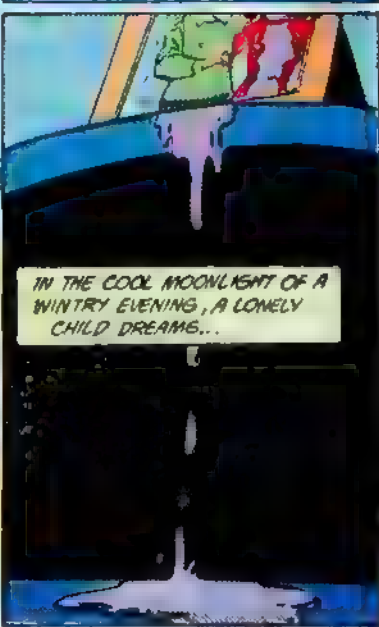
...A FLAXEN-HAIRED PRINCESS IN A TUNIC OF PURPLE AND GOLD...

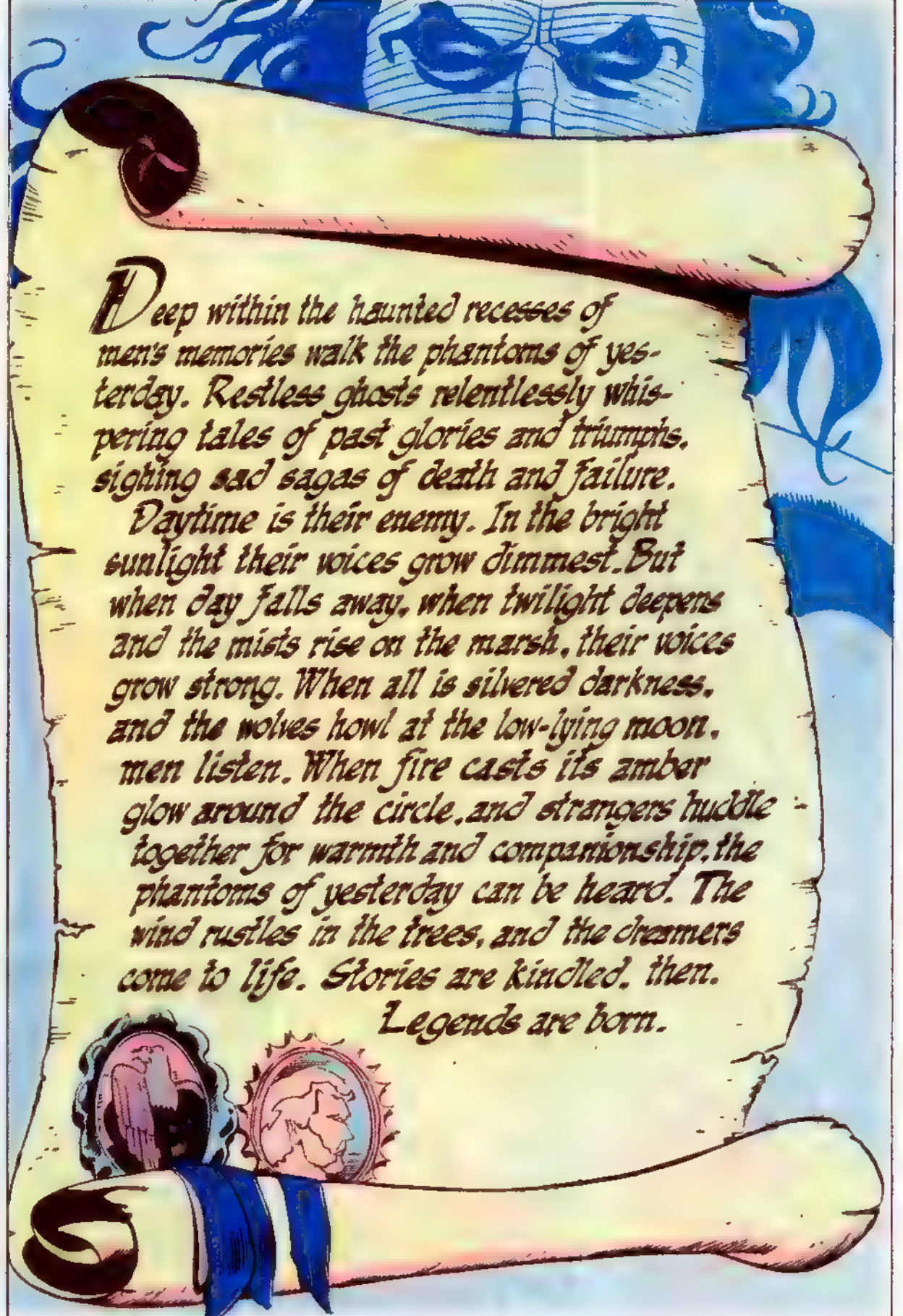


...WHOSE ROYAL HAND WIELDS THE MIGHTY POWER OF THE AMETHYST.



IN THE COOL MOONLIGHT OF A WINTERY EVENING, A LONELY CHILD DREAMS...





Deep within the haunted recesses of men's memories walk the phantoms of yesterday. Restless ghosts relentlessly whispering tales of past glories and triumphs, sighing sad sagas of death and failure.

Daytime is their enemy. In the bright sunlight their voices grow dimmest. But when day falls away, when twilight deepens and the mists rise on the marsh, their voices grow strong. When all is silvered darkness, and the wolves howl at the low-lying moon, men listen. When fire casts its amber glow around the circle, and strangers huddle together for warmth and companionship, the phantoms of yesterday can be heard. The wind rustles in the trees, and the dreamers come to life. Stories are kindled, then.

Legends are born.

purple prose



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666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

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L-2469

Dear Ms. Berger

I latched on to your comic books through CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS. Sometime between Crossover AMETHYST #13 and AMETHYST #14 I bought all of the 28 AMETHYSTS printed to date. I love that story. I'm not sure why.

I'm part of the gray-haired league. I have a reasonable, practical job. Maybe the magic appeals to me. Maybe it's the transformation of the powerless girl to the powerful ruler. Maybe it's the way I think Amethyst and Garnet should date each other. Maybe it's the way she used her wits and her jr. high school science to beat the bad guys. Maybe it's the curlicue designs and extraneous painting in the borders.

I don't know how much of this will continue. I'm glad the early stuff had it. But I kind of like the new, "harder" plots with the same good-natured, flexible Amethyst. OK. Keep the best of the old when you bring in the new.

I would have liked to see more involvement in Crisis. I'd like to see Gina croak on a pencil. I'd like Opal to stay dead.

And it pains me to wait 80 days between issues. Thank goodness for SWAMP THING.

Sincerely

Andrew Caplan
936 West End Ave. D12
New York, NY 10025

Happy to have you with us, Andrew. Unfortunately, we can't fulfill your desire to see Gina croak on a pencil, but Herb Winston has finally cut off that extramarital relationship. As for Dark Opal, we'll have to be a little ambiguous on his ultimate fate, but I can in good conscience assure you that his time on the Gemworld has run out.

.....

Dear Karen and crew

The fantasy/fairy tale genre is one that is practically extinct in the field today. AMETHYST may just turn the tables and do for fantasy what Alan Moore's SWAMP THING is doing for the horror sect. Though issue 14 is only Keith Giffen and Robert Fleming's second issue, they are already creating a tale that even Mother Goose would be proud of.

Right when I thought Carnelian was going to become one of the best new villains of the year, you turn him into a slobbering fat crystal blob and blow him up! Of course, bringing back Dark Opal

in the process does compensate a tiny bit, but I still wish you hadn't killed the poor little guy. I mean, that "I lub you Ay-mee" really got to me.

The artwork was quite good, but I do prefer Karl Kesel's inks over Ernie's pencils rather than Bob Smith. Even so, Bob deserves a hand for his guest stint (I would send him one of mine but they come in so handy!—Ouch! It hurt just typing that bad of a pun.)

Answer me this, please. Why did DC drop the Mando and go back to newsprint? I hope it isn't a permanent switch.

Keep up the good work and enjoy life.

Sincerely,

Floyd
Route 12, Box 142
Spartanburg, SC 29302

Much to everyone's surprise (particularly Carnelian's), the former evil red prince has been restored to his original form and purged of his villainous ways. As we heard this issue, since Amethyst has now moved onto a higher plane of existence, she was able to make the necessary magical alterations to perform this miraculous feat.

.....

Dear Karen

You're quite right about the new villains in AMETHYST #15—not only are they powerful, but the boy's attitude makes John McEnroe look like a saint! That disposition makes him extremely dangerous; who knows when the boy will have another tantrum and blow up some other noble's castle.

But if the boy's remark about Gemworld being a battleground between good and evil on page 17 is true, it looks like most of Gemworld will look like a scene from *The Day After*. Talk about total destruction—Castle Amethyst will probably be among the first of the noble's castles to go up in smoke (hmmm—I wonder, will White Opal's sky realm be just the place for rallying against the coming of evil?). Also, just what is the boy's real name? I know his companion is named Flaw, but how about it? As for Dark Opal's reappearance and sudden demise, THAT was an extraordinary surprise to me. Why? A rejuvenated Dark Opal would have made for a phenomenal opponent.

As you know, I was quite surprised when Keith Giffen, commenting about the future of the AMETHYST series in the latest *Amazing Heroes Preview Special*, said that he wanted to equate Gemworld with *Sorcerers' World* (home

of LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES villain Mordru) sometime in the future. As you should know as editor of the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES series, there has been a broiling debate regarding the identity of Sensor Girl. Most readers want Sensor Girl to be Kara Zor-El (a.k.a. Supergirl), but I have a more atypical guess. Amethyst herself! Why? Consider the fact that 1) Sensor Girl's abilities parallel those of Amethyst's and 2) since Cilean abilities do not need objects like eyes to sense their surroundings, that is the apparent reason why she is wearing that mask. Besides, if the Emerald Empress can be swayed by Sensor Girl's unknown powers—well, you get the idea. If I am correct, well, let's say you have fooled a lot of LEGION readers!

Sincerely

Raymond Chuang
2650 American River Drive
Sacramento, CA 95864

As I mentioned at the end of last issue, Raymond, we are positively going to firmly tie in the Gemworld with the Sorcerers' World of the Legion of Super-Heroes fame when Amethyst returns in her next incarnation, Mordru. In fact, will be playing a very major role in the upcoming series. One that's filled with many, many surprises.

.....

Dear Everybody

Comments on AMETHYST #15

Who is this nasty, obnoxious, an-drogynous child? You guys been reading Zelazny's "Amber" series? Just what the heck is going on, anyways?

Trashing the Gemworld just before lunch, eh? I take it from the 'to be continued' that things aren't what they seem... and surprise Dark Opal didn't last that long at all. Good. I was afraid you might have run out of things to throw at Amethyst and just fell back on the "bring the archvillain back from the dead." If he's in some sort of semi-limbo/purgatory/netherworld, I'd like to know, but I'd rather have him permanently stiff.

One last comment before I go—nice gritty quality to the art, guys—it matched the character of the story perfectly! Well, at least I thought so.

Always

Andrea Gurdon
11215 Wealthy Lane
Romeo, MI 48065

The disgustingly obnoxious child (you were the only one to guess that he's an

drogynous, Andreae) is (as all we know by now) an all-powerful, unpredictable Lord of Chaos. We're glad you approve of Dark Opal's demise, but our next reader has some entirely different feelings on that matter.

Dear Karen.

I may as well tell you that AMETHYST #15 is the first comic ever to provoke me to write a letter. This means I liked it (or hated it) more than anything else I've read in the medium. First of all, the anticlimax concerning Dark Opal's return has me really irked at you people. Dark Opal has been just about the only good villain you've had that has ever shown any backbone. So now what? I guess you could do like the Micronauts and have him resurrected and killed off every two or three issues. Not likely unless your sales drop even more than they are right now, but a definite nightmarish possibility. Or this could be all I see of my favorite bad guy ever. Not a pleasant thought.

Castle Amethyst's destruction was dramatic, but I was too disconcerted by Opal's sudden disposal and the introduction of two truly hokey villains to even care. Which means it was lost on me. Now for the part of the mag that was so good, it was worth the full price of the comic. Rita going out of her mind in and of itself is not too surprising, given the circumstances, who wouldn't be affected? It was a well-written segment and the art was likewise very appropriate and moody. Colón's pencils were on the razor's edge of being abstract, but remained grittily realistic and expressed the utter insanity of the events that have occurred in Carl's house. Take a bow, Ernie!

You may take the impression that page nine was the only one I liked. Don't. Overall, AMETHYST #15 had its moments. I simply happened to drool over one particular page overly-much.

Brian Uecker
Route 1 Box 303
Yankton, SD 57078

Dear Purple Prose Perpetrators.

"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their [comics]."

Amethyst has always been one of my favorite comics, ever since that day, October 19, 1984, when I grabbed a spanking-new first issue from my comic shop's shelves. Hooked ever since, seeing my lovable heroine meet new friends, destroying Dark menaces, being trapped at home and playing the suicidal sleepwalker, I feel now is the time to speak out. The villain, U.P.L. (Unresolved Plot Line). The hero, me, in which case the pen is definitely mightier than the sword.

My first major complaint is the fact that too many of Gemworld's thrones are empty. Amethyst, always a Lady in my book, has yet to claim her heir-conditioned throne. Emerald has also failed to claim hers (letting more than a year go

by since her last attempt. You think she would've gotten bored one Saturday afternoon and said, "Ho hum, let's throw a coronation.") Both of these ladies deserve the title of Lady and are long overdue to get it. One more person who deserves the throne (if only in name) is Lady Aquamarine. She would make a lovely figurehead for the islands, much like Queen Liz is for Britain. No harm done, just christen a few ships and wear useless hats and she'll do fine.

My second complaint (though equal to the first) is how Amethyst's powers are displayed. Firstly, she has her gemstone powers, derived from her heritage as heir to Lady Amethyst. These are the powers she is most familiar with and which proved to be a match for Opal. Secondly, she has the power and knowledge of Citrina. Said power, at its prime, was greater than either Opal or Amethyst. Third, she has the power contained within the Gemworld. That power is the power of an entire planet, not just one patch of land or a single homeland, but all of the mystic power that courses through and sustains the very structure of the Gemworld. Part of this is her affinity for everything in the Gemworld and her ability to control it. Unless something is under direct control by another, its loyalty lies with Amethyst. She could attack Dark Opal (off of his home ground) by commanding the land to assault him and not even use her personal magicks. This means she has a living, unstoppable army at her command. Finally are her powers as a Lord of Order. These as yet are undefined, but they can only supplement her already vast array of powers and make her more formidable.

I guess what I'm trying to do and say is that Amethyst is too powerful to be taken on by any flash-in-the-pan villain. I mean, if she even gives Dark Opal a dirty look, he's back where he came from, six feet under. I personally like her being nearly omnipotent, a kind of Mother Nature for the Gemworld. Please keep it and don't change her powers, just how they are displayed.

My third and final complaint is the fact that the writers of our Powerful Purple Princess (Lady) keep switching tracks and adding subplots that don't pan out, like Rita's interest in the Gemworld, Gina's interest in Herb, and the introduction of the living totems of the twelve houses. All of these popped up and were abruptly cut out of the book. Please get on one track and stay there. This will make the book more consistent and will let it flow more smoothly.

C.R. Praire
2801 Huron (drive)
Springfield, IL 62707

In defense of the villainous unresolved plot line, C.R., allow me to point out that we have followed up on all but one of the mentioned story threads since you penned this letter. (Carl regaled Rita with tales of the Gemworld while he was courting her, trying to regain Opal's brooch, and we've seen that Gina and Herb had a heavy thing going.) Since AMETHYST was demoted to bimonthly status, we weren't able to devote much

space to developing all of the Lords and Ladies from each of the royal houses. That's not to say that they're floating around in limbo land somewhere, for we do have definite plans for each of the kingdoms and their rulers in the upcoming limited series.

Purple Pros.

"The Blighting of Gemworld," last issue, and this issue's "Apocalypse" prompt this letter, my first since mid-maxi-series. Ernie Colón's return as penciller marks my return to steady readership after an indifference of several issues. Liz Berube's coloring was excellent last issue, and Tatjana Wood's work this issue, especially her despairing skies and atmospheres of the final page, prompt my request for her. Ernie, and Karl Kesel to remain the art staff for this small jewel in the comic book tiara.

Mindy Newell managed the uneasy mixture of contemporary conversation between Amy/Amethyst and "The Child" with the Gemworld royalty's archaisms. "Archaicisms"? Mindy managed the mix more or less masterfully.

Long ago mention was made that some of us pretend/pretended ("knew") we were secretly adopted sons and daughters of kings and queens. I imagine Amy Winston did so, too, until it turned out to be true, for her. Does she ever think about that now...? Next time she's home with the Winstons, perhaps a friend might confide in her, or perhaps one of her baby-sitting charges will confess to being (surely) of royal blood, incognito. What will Amy have to say?

Keep up the good work! I'm keeping up my good wishes!

Matthew Louis M. Levin
44 Lincoln Ave.
Northampton, MA 01060

We were real pleased with Mindy's portrayal of Amethyst's strangest new foe, too, Matthew-Louis. And Mindy herself has confessed that "The Child" has been one of her favorite characters to write. Maybe because it brings out the brat in herself? Just kidding, Mindy, honest!

That just about wraps everything up, folks. We're not ones for long good-byes, so we'll keep our parting words short and sweet. Thanks for sticking with us through the maxi-series, the Annual, and seventeen issues of our monthly magazine. Your loyal reader ship and support made it possible for us to come this far; a claim not every comic can make. So on behalf of Amethyst and her entire creative crew—fere thee well, all. You'll always be special friends to us! And, last I forget, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for future announcements concerning the upcoming AMETHYST mini-series. Okay? Okay! Take care, everyone, enjoy, and we'll see you sooner than you think!—Karen Berger

ON THE BEAMWORLD, THE DAY IS PEARL AND THE NIGHT IS OBSIDIAN-- AND THE LIGHTS IN THE SKY ARE NOT STARS

HERE, WHERE GUILTESS CREATURES, HALF-WHIMSY/ HALF- GOSSAMER, PERFORM THEIR JOYOUS DANCE OF LIFE AROUND A BLAZING COLUMN OF DEATH, THE WELCOMING GLOW OF A CAMPFIRE CAN BE SEEN AT GREAT DISTANCE--

--AND A PLACE BY THE FIRE IS PRIZED..

FORGIVE MY INTRUSION-- BUT I SEEM TO HAVE LOST MY WAY--!

A Thrice-Told Tale!

LEN WEIN . ESTEBAN MAROTO . JOHN COSANZA . TATIANA WOOD
GUEST WRITER GUEST ARTIST letterer colorist
KAREN BERGER . WITH THANKS TO MUNDY NEWELL FOR
EDITOR THE PLOTTING ASSIST

THEN YOU ARE WELCOME, TRAVELER-- TO SHARE THE WARMTH OF OUR FIRE AND OUR SMALL EVENING'S REPAST

AS IF THERE WAS ENOUGH FOR THE REST OF US--!

BE GRACIOUS, FISHERMAN--

--PERHAPS THIS KIND STRANGER CAN HELP US SOLVE OUR PROBLEM!

GLADLY IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO IN RETURN FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

THEN BE YE SILENT, STRANGER-- AND LISTEN WELL TO OUR THREE TALES.

OF THE FATE OF THE LOVELY PRINCESS AMETHYST!

WE ALL KNOW THE LEGEND OF AMETHYST-- HOW SHE WAS LOST TO US FOR YEARS, THEN RETURNED TO FREE US FROM THE TYRANNY OF DARK OPAL.

... BUT I ALONE KNOW TRULY HOW SHE SPENT THE TIME BETWEEN!

IT WAS THE VILE VILLAINESS FIRE JADE WHO STOLE THE PRINCESS FROM US, SLIPPING INTO THE INFANT'S BED-CHAMBER AMIDST THE SMOTHERING SHADOWS OF NIGHT--

LEAVING THE STRICKEN LORD AND LADY AMETHYST ONLY AN EMPTY ROOM AND EMPTY HEARTS--

AS THE BLOATING FIRE JADE CARRIED AWAY THE INFANT'S ESSENCE ON THE CHILL NIGHT BREEZE.

TRANSFORMING THE SLUMBERING CHILD THROUGH HER FOUL MAGICKS--

DADA MAMA MAMA

ABLE TO WATCH HELPLESSLY AS HER PARENTS WERE DEFEATED AND ULTIMATELY SLAIN BY THE MONSTROUS DARK OPAL--

MONTHS PASSED AND THE SPIRIT OF THE CHILD AMETHYST LIVED ON, SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD'S FOUR WINDS--

BUT UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE, SAVE WAIL THEIR NAMES IN PAIN AND FRUSTRATION.

AND THEN, AT LAST, TO MOURN!

"WITH HER PARENTS GONE, THE PRINCESS
ANYETIST FELT NO GREAT NEED TO RETURN
TO THE SOREMS OF THE FLESH. SO
SHE SPENT THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BEASTS OF
LEGGER CREATURES--



--THE BEASTS THAT
CRAWLED AND SWAM AND
FLEW, THE SPIRITS OF THE
WOOD AND THE EARTH--

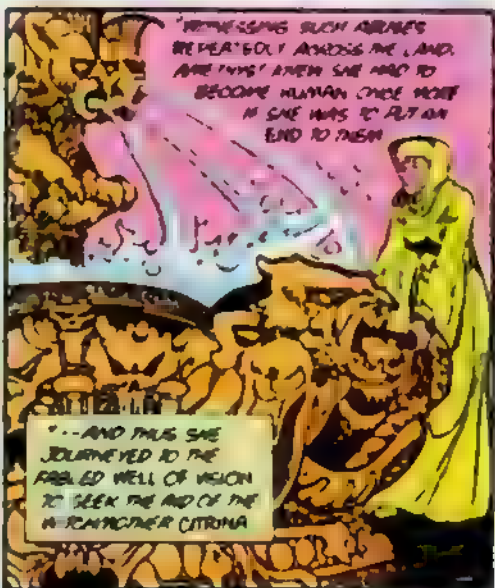
--AND FOR A TIME,
SHE WAS HAPPY

"UNTIL THE FATEFUL DAY
SHE CHANCED TO RETURN
TO THE ROYAL RESIDENCE--



--AND BEHELD THE
CAROL CARNELMAN
TORTURING AN
INNOCENT INMATE--

"WITNESSING SUCH ABUSES
REPEATEDLY ACROSS THE LAND,
ANYETIST KNEW SHE HAD TO
BECOME HUMAN ONCE MORE
IF SHE WAS TO PUT AN
END TO THEM



"--AND THUS SHE
JOURNEYED TO THE
FABLED WELL OF VISION
TO SEEK THE AID OF THE
WITCHMOTHER CITRINA

"FOR YEARS CITRINA HAD COME
TO THE WELL SEARCHING FOR
SOME SIGN OF ANYETIST'S
WHEREABOUTS--



"--FOR SHE HAD
REFUSED TO BELIEVE
THE CHILD WAS
FOREVER LOST TO
HER AND REFUSED
TO ABANDON HOPE

"--AND NOW, AT LAST, HER
BOUNDLESS FAITH WOULD BE
REWARDED



CITRINA
WITCHMOTHER,
PLEASE... HEAR... ME...

BY THE
TWELVE
HOUSES--
CAN IT
TRULY BE

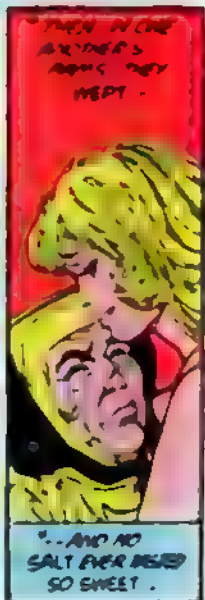
IS IT REALLY
YOU,
DAUGHTER--?

"IMMEDIATELY,
WITH ALL THE
BOUNDLESS POWER
AT HER COMMAND,
CITRINA DREW THE
PRINCESS FROM
THE CHANGING
WATERS



"--AND RESTORED HER
TO HUMAN FORM

"THEN, IN ONE
ANYETIST'S
ARMS, THEY
WEDD



"--AND NO
SALT EVER BEING
SO SWEET

"THE REST OF THE TALE YOU KNOW-- OF HOW THE PRINCESS
RALLIED THE HOUSES OF THE GEMWORLD AND FINALLY PUT AN
END TO DARK OPAL'S EVIL--"

"--BUT THE TRUTH OF THE
YEARS BETWEEN, YOU
HAVE HEARD NOW FIRST
FROM ME--"

"OH, SHE WAS INDEED STOLEN FROM HER
CRADLE, BUT NOT BY FIRE JADE'S
MAGICKS.

"TWAS THE SERVANTS OF DARK
OPAL HIMSELF WHO DID THE DEED--"

"--AND THENCE INTO THE AWFUL PRESENCE OF
THE BLACK LORD HIMSELF

"YOU HAVE
THE CHILD,
INSIGNIFICANT
ONE?"

"AS
COMMANDED,
M' LORD"

THEN TAKE HER TO THE
KITCHEN--HAVE THEM
PUT HER TO WORK--"

TODAY THE PRINCESS
BECOMES JUST ANOTHER
OF DARK OPAL'S NAME-
LESS SERVANTS--AS
SOON ALL THE GEM
WORLD SHALL FOLLOW

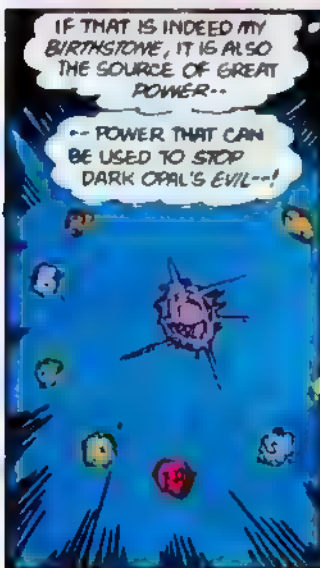
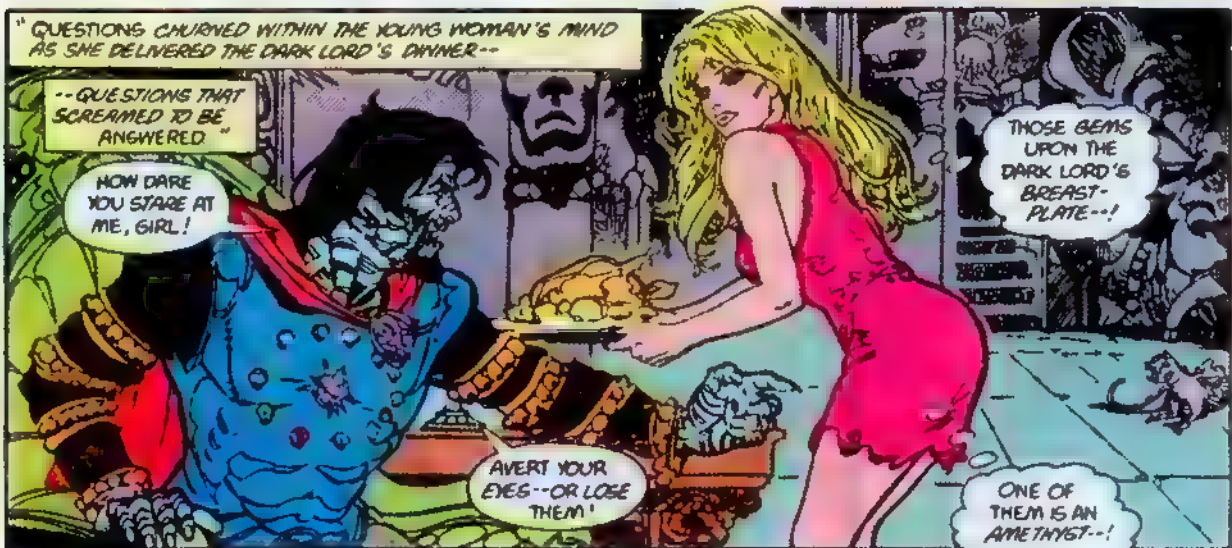
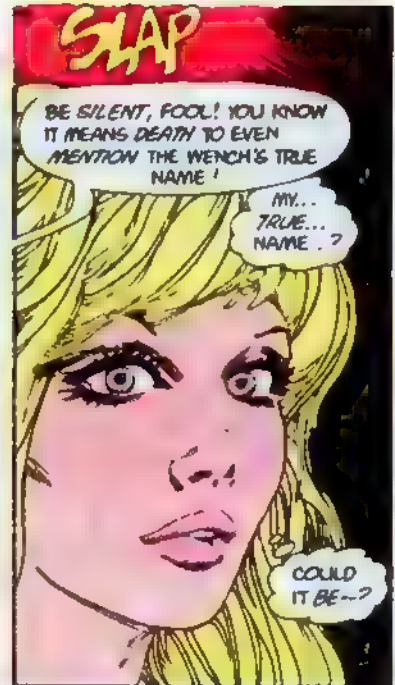
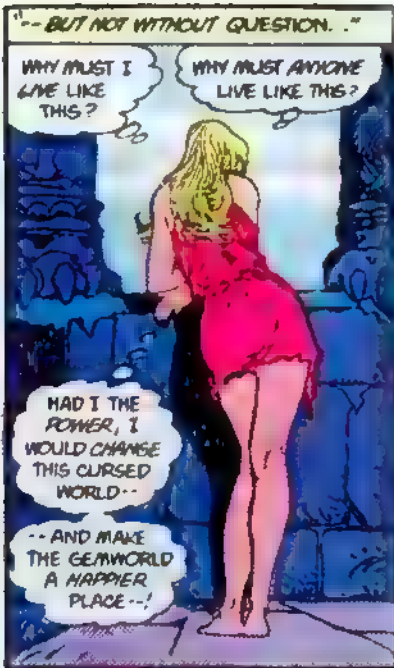
SO, STRANGER-- WHAT THINK YE OF MY TALE?"

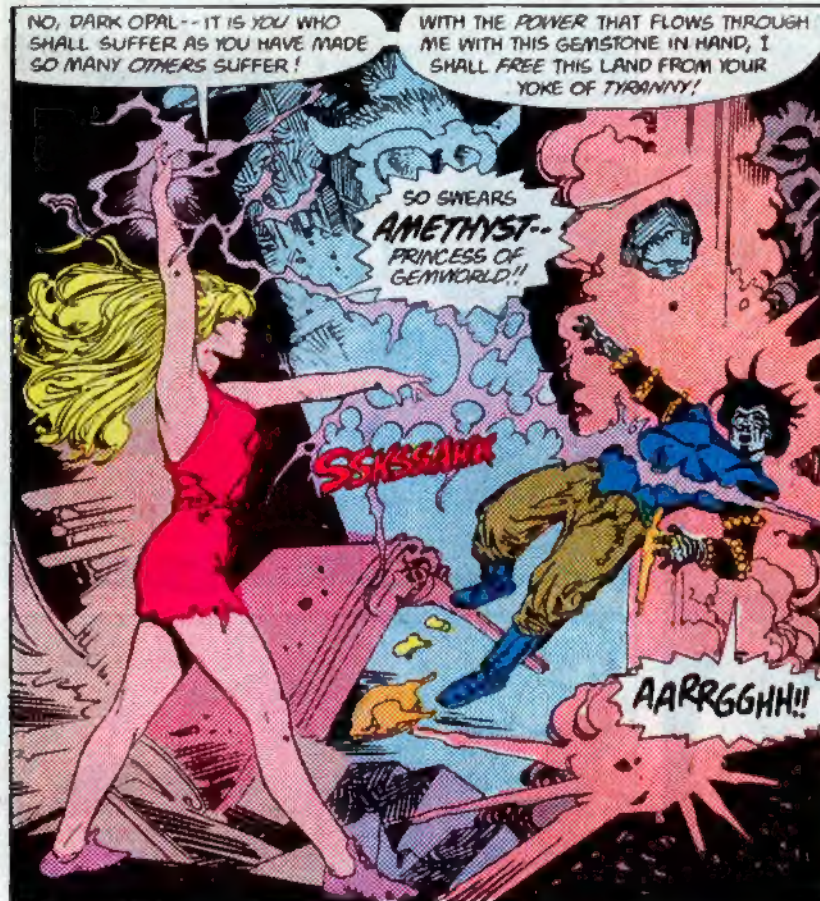
"WOULD BE --WAS--
INDEED, MY FRIEND
--IF IT WERE SO!"

BUT I FEAR THE TRUTH
OF OUR LADY'S LOST YEARS
LAYS ELSEWHERE!

"-- CARRYING THE CHILD THROUGH
THE SAVAGE, STORMSWEEP NIGHT
TO THE UNHALLOWED GROUNDS OF
THE FEARSOME FORTRESS OPAL--"

"AND THUS THE POOR PRINCESS PASSED
THE YEARS IN ANONYMITY AND DESPAIR,
SERVING THE DARK LORD'S EVERY WHIM
WITHOUT HESITATION--"





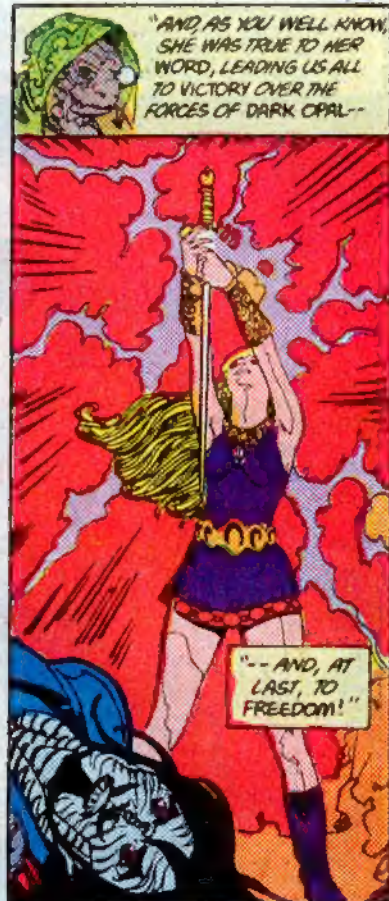
NO, DARK OPAL-- IT IS YOU WHO SHALL SUFFER AS YOU HAVE MADE SO MANY OTHERS SUFFER!

WITH THE POWER THAT FLOWS THROUGH ME WITH THIS GEMSTONE IN HAND, I SHALL FREE THIS LAND FROM YOUR YOKE OF TYRANNY!

SO SWEARS
AMETHYST--
PRINCESS OF
GEMWORLD!!

SSSSSSSS

AARRGGHH!!



"AND AS YOU WELL KNOW, SHE WAS TRUE TO HER WORD, LEADING US ALL TO VICTORY OVER THE FORCES OF DARK OPAL--"

"-- AND, AT
LAST, TO
FREEDOM!"



AND THAT IS MY TALE...

...TOLD TO ME BY THE SELF-SAME WIZARD WHO CURSED ME WITH THIS TERRAPIN-LIKE FLESH!

BAH! METHINKS HE ADDLED YOUR BRAIN AS WELL!

NONSENSE! A TALE WELL- TOLD, MY FRIEND--

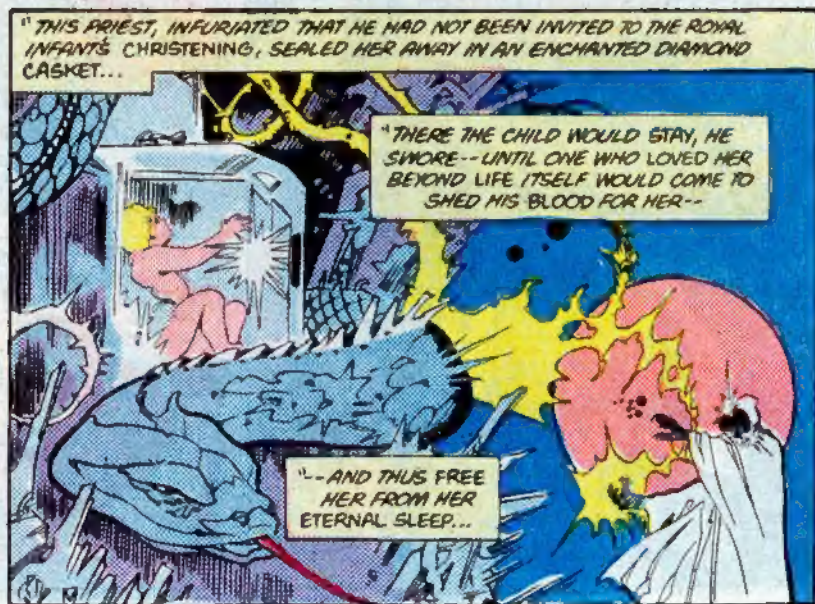
-- THOUGH NOT SO SWEET AS MY TALE!

THEN TELL IT, CHILD...



"WELL, THE PRINCESS AMETHYST WAS NOT STOLEN FROM HER CRADLE BY THOSE VILLAINS, AS THE OTHERS HAVE SAID--"

"-- BUT BY A PRIEST FROM THE KINGDOM OF DIAMONDS..."

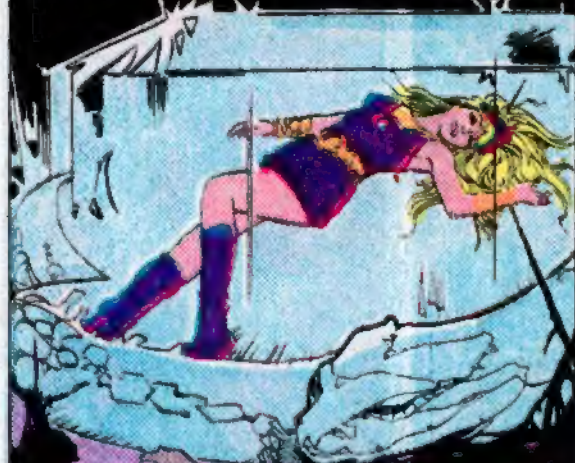


"THIS PRIEST, INFURIATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN INVITED TO THE ROYAL INFANT'S CHRISTENING, SEALED HER AWAY IN AN ENCHANTED DIAMOND CASKET..."

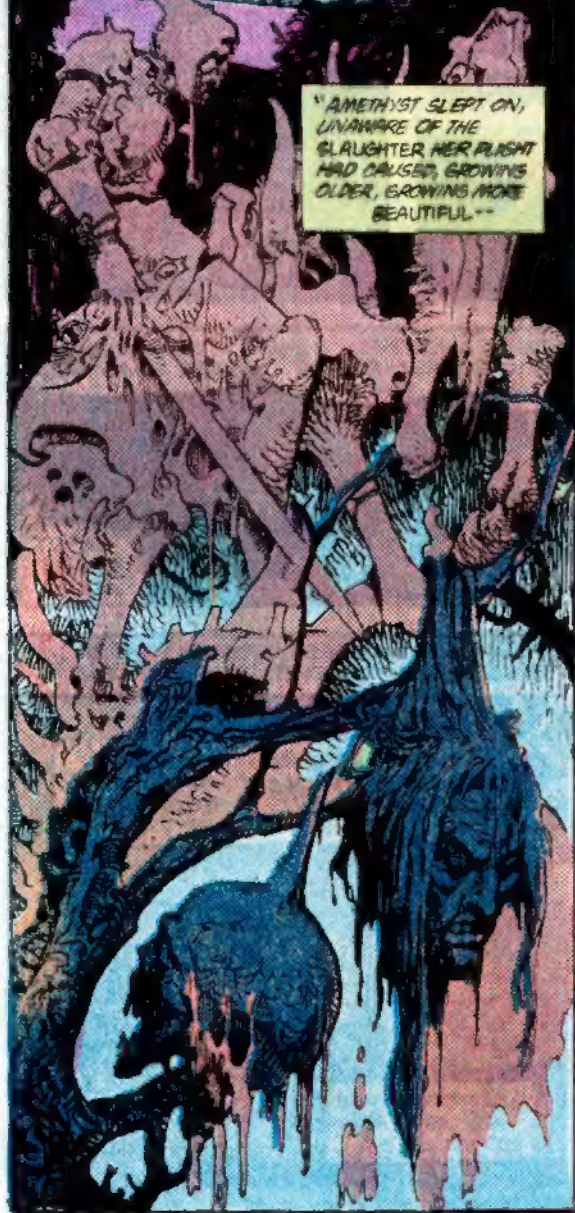
"THERE THE CHILD WOULD STAY, HE SWORE-- UNTIL ONE WHO LOVED HER BEYOND LIFE ITSELF WOULD COME TO SHED HIS BLOOD FOR HER--"

"-- AND THUS FREE HER FROM HER ETERNAL SLEEP..."

"THE YEARS PASSED -- AND THE JAGGED FOREST THAT SURROUNDED THE CASKET GREW CROWDED WITH THE CORPSES OF THOSE WHO HAD COME SEEKING TO FREE THE PRINCESS FROM HER UNHOLY IMPRISONMENT..."



"AMETHYST SLEPT ON, UNAWARE OF THE SLAUGHTER HER FLIGHT HAD CAUSED, GROWING OLDER, GROWING MORE BEAUTIFUL..."



"--UNTIL THAT FATEFUL DAY THE HANDSOME PRINCE TOPAZ, HAVING HEARD THE LEGENDS OF THE SLUMBERING PRINCESS IN THE GLEAMING CASKET, MADE HIS WARY WAY THROUGH THE FOREST OF BONES..."



"--AND, OPENING THE CASKET, BEHELD FOR THE FIRST TIME THE FACE OF HIS ONE TRUE LOVE..."



"A MOMENT, MY PRECIOUS-- AND MY LIPS SHALL GET YOU FREE!"

"BUT TRUE LOVE IS NEVER SO EASILY WON..."

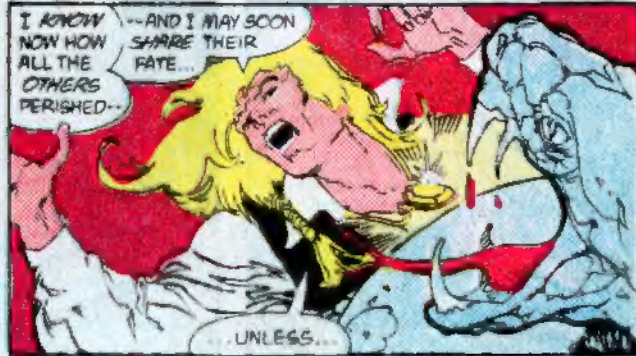


"THE DIAMOND SERPENT COILED AROUND THE CASKET --IT LIVES!"



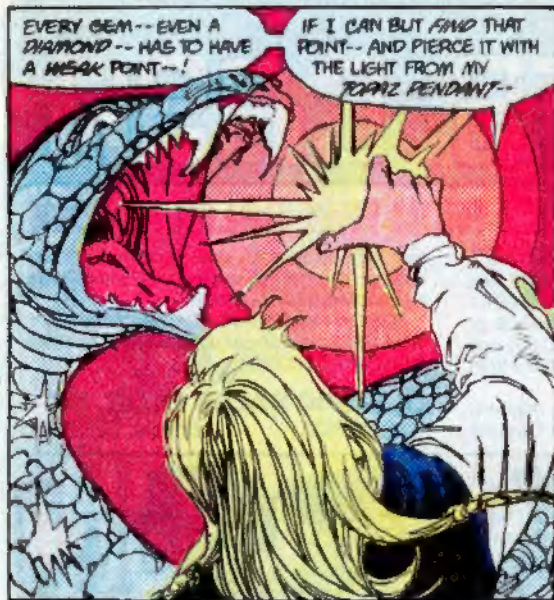
"AND MY SWORD IS USELESS AGAINST ITS IMPENETRABLE FLESH--!"

"I KNOW NOW HOW ALL THE OTHERS PERISHED..."



"--AND I MAY SOON SHARE THEIR FATE..."

"...UNLESS..."



EVERY GEM--EVEN A DIAMOND--HAS TO HAVE A WEAK POINT--!

IF I CAN BUT FIND THAT POINT-- AND PIERCE IT WITH THE LIGHT FROM MY TOPAZ PENDANT--



-- THE SERPENT WILL COME, AS ALL THINGS MUST--

--TO DUST!



"THEN, HIS PENDANT STILL WET WITH HIS OWN BLOOD, PRINCE TOPAZ GENTLY KISSED HIS LADY'S SWEET LIPS--

--AND NOTHING HAPPENED!



FORGIVE ME, MY BELOVED--

--BUT I HAVE FAILED YOU!

WH-WHO?



THAT DROP OF MY BLOOD-- IT FREED YOU FROM YOUR SPELL AS THE PRIEST PROMISED--!

OH, MILADY, FROM THIS DAY FORTH, MY BLOOD IS YOURS--

--AND THE HEART OF PRINCE TOPAZ IS YOURS TO COMMAND!

"TOGETHER, THEY DEFEATED DARK OPAL, OF COURSE--"



--BUT IT'S THE ROMANTIC PART OF THE STORY THAT I LIKE!

FEH! A MERE FAIRY TALE-- MOST FITTING FROM A CHILD--!

WELL, TRAVELER-- YOU'VE HEARD THE THREE TALES TOLD!

WHICH OF THEM DO YOU THINK TRUE?



DOES IT REALLY MATTER, MY FRIEND?

TRUTH IS AT BEST A FRAGILE, FLEETING THING--

--BUT LEGENDS LIVE FOREVER!

AMEN



Dear Mr. Giordano,

For well over ten years I have been hooked on comics. I have idolized such talents as Jack Kirby, Carmine Infantino, Michael Golden, yourself, as well as Wally Wood, Frank Frazetta, and the rest of the EC crew that I had to learn about second-hand; it is one of the disadvantages of being only twenty-one.

I would like to personally tell you how much I have enjoyed the last year of DC comics. After reading the last issue of **CRISIS** I was more than slightly disappointed—not because the quality of the book had dropped, but because one of the best series in the history of comics is over. But is it over? Far from it! The story of the DC universe can now be told in its complete form. I do have several questions:

1) Now that the entire history of the universe will be told, where will we see the new characters that were created during **CRISIS**?

2) I have been to several conventions and met several representatives of DC and they have mentioned that, by law, DC can only publish a certain number of books per month. Can you explain this law?

3) With all the new origins that will appear—mostly on your flagship title—what will be the fate of the older characters that DC owns, such as Dollman, Boy Commandos, the original Manhunter, and the rest of the golden-oldies?

4) Since John Byrne has been recruited for Superman, can we look forward to a return to DC by Rogers, Golden, or Austin? Surely if Marvel's best cog can be persuaded to join the

DC team, almost anyone can be.

5) How long is John's contract for?

6) Last but not least—if several characters visited the beginning of time, and time was reshaped, does that mean that there is a possibility that **MANHUNTER**, the version by Walt Simonson and Archie Goodwin, may be alive again? If there is a chance, please revive him. One suggestion, if Walt and Archie are not available, PLEASE get Steve Englehart and Marshall Rogers.

Sincerely,

David Rutledge

2001 Ojeman #1323

Houston, Texas 77080

P.S. Thank you for the time and care you put into the books—it shows and is greatly appreciated.



Thank you for including my name on that illustrious list. I only wish I was good enough to really belong on it. Alas, I am not, but I am humbly grateful that you may have thought so. On to your questions, then:

1) Some of the characters who appeared first in **CRISIS** will get their own books, others will be making guest appearances, still others may become team members in one group book or another. Watch this column, our ad pages or your favorite fanzine for further information.

2) It's not a law, David, merely company policy. We feel we have a responsibility not to put more books

into the market place than it can reasonably be expected to accommodate. So to prevent a market glut, we've budgeted ourselves to produce only a certain amount of books annually. However, our monthly schedules go up and down. For example, we publish more books in June, July and August than the rest of the year.

3) Most of the older characters are available for editors to use if they choose, but there are no immediate plans to publish the specific characters you mentioned. Sometimes an editor will opt for a brand new character rather than one whose past history is spotty.

4) Our current plans call for Marshall Rogers to do some **Batman** stories but although we've been talking to both Michael Golden and Terry Austin in earnest ... so far no definite commitment from either (Michael Golden, at least, seems to have made a long term commitment at Marvel). But we haven't given up hope. We really believe people make the difference ... and them's the kinda people what do!

5) It's company policy not to reveal terms from agreements with our creative folk. I think that information should remain confidential.

6) Actually, this event (as seen in **CRISIS** #10) allows us to reshape the origins, and everything that happens thereafter of any, or all, of the characters who returned to the dawn of time.

At this time, Walt Simonson is under exclusive contract to Marvel and is not available. Archie Goodwin is gainfully employed as editor of the *Epic* line and, to my knowledge, happy in that position. If we can get some time from Englehart and Rogers, they're going to do some **Batman**!

Thank You and Good Afternoon.

Dick

P.S. It's always wonderful to have your efforts noted and appreciated. I've taken the liberty of sharing your kind thoughts with the people who put the time and care into our books ... our hard-working and talented editorial staff.



DC

ON SALE THE

CHECK

WEEK OF JULY 10

LIST

☐ **Man of Steel 1:** Now begins the rebirth of Superman by John Byrne &

Dick Giordano!

☐ **Batman 400:** 64 pages! Ra's al Ghul vs. Batman! Pin-ups! Intro by Stephen King Buy this already!

☐ **Amethyst Special 1:** Amy makes the ultimate sacrifice to save the Gemworld!

☐ **Blue Beetle 5:** The Question returns but why does he want the Beetle?

☐ **Electric Warrior 6:** Lek 9-03 goes on a rampage in the city's upper tier!

☐ **Elvira's House of Mystery 8:** More stories, a few more clues & lots of fun!

☐ **Firestorm Annual 4:** Venom has

Ronny's step-mother—will he stop her death?

☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes 27:** Four revealing vignettes in the lives of the Legion!

☐ **Mazing Man 10:** Maze helps out at a fire! Guido jogs his buns off!

☐ **Secret Origins 7:** Guy Gardner by Steve Englehart & Ernie Colon plus the Original Sandman by Roy Thomas & Michael Bair!

☐ **Star Trek 31:** On Maggie's World, Kirk must prevent the Klingons from winning a planet!